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Central Eurasia

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Joint Ventures With CIS Seen as Way To Solve Debt Problem

MK1301134195 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Levin under the "Russian-Ukrainian Financial-Industrial Groups" rubric: "Russian Wealth To Multiply Via Joint FIG's"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government's favorite idea in the area of industrial policy—the creation of financial- industrial groups (FIG)—has won international recognition. Yesterday a government decree approving the draft Russian-Ukrainian agreement on setting up joint FIG's was released for official distribution. Given that a relevant agreement with Belarus was signed early this month, one may conclude that this year the Russian Government will be able to extend state control to the economies of adjacent states.

The idea of setting up FIG's has been pushed through in Russia first of all by the government, which is interested in relieving the state budget of the burden of financing the national industry and in shifting responsibility onto commercial banks. Cash-strapped large enterprises too are seeking to strike up alliances with commercial banks. The latter, for their part, are still waiting, even if they are ready to invest extra capital in what is currently the most important industry—the fuel and energy sector. A total of seven FIG's have already been registered in Russia. Next in line is the creation of financial-industrial groups jointly with CIS countries in the areas of oil and gas processing and transportation, tube production, and the airspace industry. The Commonwealth countries still lack the requisite legal framework for FIG operation, however. Even Russia has yet to adopt a relevant federal law, while in the meantime it relies on enforceable enactments. The conclusion of bilateral intergovernment agreements on setting up joint FIG's is bound to speed up the lawmaking process in this area. The Russian Government decree approving the draft agreement on creating joint Russian-Ukrainian FIG's has brought the bilateral lawmaking process to its final stage, thus making it possible to register the first Russian-Ukrainian FIG's in the very near future. The joint ventures' possibilities will be limited, however, because the draft agreement offers virtually no specific incentives on the part of the state. It only calls for state guarantees and benefits to be given if need be in accordance with national legislation.

A different picture is emerging in Russian-Belarusian relations. The bilateral agreement signed 6 January in Minsk calls for a number of significant steps to support joint FIG's. The Russian side most stands to benefit from the arrangements. In particular, the problem of Belarusian plants' debts to Russian enterprises for energy resources (about $500 million) can be solved via investment tenders envisioned by this accord. The debts of enterprises whose shares are to be sold by tender will be counted toward the investment of a FIG posing as a buyer. Moreover, the Russian side's advantage may increase even more if a bilateral agreement on the partial conversion of Belarusian enterprises' arrears to Russian suppliers into government debt in the form of property; its draft has practically been agreed upon by the two sides. Therefore the creation of joint FIG's will not only help to solve the problem of CIS countries' debts to Russia, but will also facilitate the penetration of Russian capital into the economies of Commonwealth countries.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Jan

LD1401075295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 14 Jan 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 14 ITAR-TASS—Russian newspapers continue to concentrate on the events in and around Chechnya. The government newspaper ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA devotes a special issue to this topic. Secretary of the Russian Security Council Oleg Lobov describes the role of this high body of the country in settling the chechen crisis.

According to Lobov, the Security Council drafted a plan for restoring legality, law and order in Chechnya, which was aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict, since the plan provided for the use of troops only as an auxiliary measure.

However, "we were forced to use troops, because repeated attempts to disarm illegal armed detachments in Chechnya were frustrated". The secretary said that the Security Council should now become "a generator and coordinator of many-sided work to normalise the situation in Chechnya and in the North Caucasus as a whole", which should become Russian-wide work.

The newspaper describes how Dzhokhar Dudayev was marching to power. Its correspondent in Volgograd Vitaliy Cherkasov shows with numerous examples how the underworld and corrupt politicos helped the general to grab the presidential post.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA continues to publish materials from "The white paper" of crimes of Dudayev's regime.

The ROSSIYSKIE VESTI newspaper expresses an idea that peace in Chechnya should be restored by common efforts of authorities and society. "Now that combat operations are to be replaced with efforts on a political settlement and restoration of the economy," the newspaper writes, "it is necessary to use all the scientific, cultural and ideological potential of the Chechen Republic.

"Only broad cooperation of all business, religious and other public and economic structures, based on mutual tolerance and a desire to overcome the present situation, can pull the Chechen people out of the crisis and help Russia to recover from the shock caused by the conflict."

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The IZVESTIYA newspaper deals in its leader with relations between the legislative and executive arms of government in the context of the Chechen events. "HEARINGS AT THE so-called special session of the State Duma (eds: Russian parliament lower house) dealing with the Chechen problem showed," the daily writes, "that the executive arm of government in Russia should not be very worried over possible encroachments on its powers on the part of legislators.

"Most lawmakers showed loyalty to the president and the government, while the Duma speaker—his ability to rule the chamber. The task of turning the session into a political debate and of preventing the adoption of bills, potentially capable of changing, at least a little, the balance of powers in favour of the legislative arm, was resolved with brilliance."

Evidently, the newspaper draws the conclusion, "the Duma is afraid of the president and has grounds to be".

"The Chechen war," IZVESTIYA continues, "sharply upset both political and economic stability and provoked a new wave of inflation in Russia." At the newspaper's request, this situation is examined by Russian Vice-Premier Anatoly Chubays who claims that there are no grounds for an economic disaster.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper features an article by Aleksandr Konovalov, director of the military policy and systems analysis centre at the Institute of United States and Canada, where he examines "consequences of the Chechen campaign" for the Russian Federation.

Konovalov claims that the deep political crisis of power in Moscow has become the first and evident result of the Chechen campaign. The Russian president has completely changed political identification virtually overnight.

"The man who received the mandate at the elections from reformist and democratic forces in Russia, is tired of a game in democracy, and he decided that it is more expedient to become a national radical under the present political situation," the scholar stresses.

Obviously, the newpspaper draws the conclusion, "history has brought apart for good Yeltsin and democratic reforms in Russia".

Another scholar, Yevgeniy Solovyev, master of military science, depicts a "bright" prospect for the development of the Chechen situation in the same newspaper. He claims that there will be no guerrilla war in Chechnya. He draws this conclusion on the basis of a historic approach to the analysis of relations between Russia and Chechnya and the latter's social and economic position.

The NOVAYA GAZETA newspaper calls attention to a decree by president of the Chuvash Republic (eds: constituent member of the Russian Federation) Nikolay Fyodorov "aimed at protecting the interests of servicemen called up to participate in The Chechen conflict".

The newspaper singles out his words that "Russia's operating legislation has no grounds for lawful combat operations with the use of servicemen in Chechnya". It follows, the newspaper notes, that "there are no legal grounds for combat operations in Chechnya".

Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray disagrees with the above decree. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA quotes Shakhray who comments on this legal act by the Chuvash president the following way: "It is an utterly anti-constitutional document from the legal point of view, and it contains signs of clear separatism from the political point of view."

Writing in the supplement "Zemstvo" to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, author Aleksandr Solzhenitsin expresses his view on the problem of "our fellow countrymen", 25 million ethnic Russians separated from their homeland in the former Soviet republics.

In Solzhenitsin's opinion, this problem is so pressing for Russia that it should be settled immediately by granting them full-fledged citizenship.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Jan

LD1701062395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0608 GMT 17 Jan 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 17 ITAR-TASS—The ROSSIYSKIE VESTI newspaper informs its readers of the results of a recent poll conducted by the division at the Russian president's office on cooperation between political parties, mass associations, parliamentary groups and lawmakers.

The newspaper reports that the overwhelming majority of polled participants in the public accord treaty confirmed the need for preserving Russia's integrity and regard measures taken to establish constitutional law and order in the Chechen Republic as legitimate.

Russian Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev who is also chairman of the monitoring human rights council in Chechnya, said after his return from the Chechen Republic that the number of "resistance pockets" in Chechnya is steadily decreasing and that the government of Salambek Khadzhiev started to perform their duties, ROSSIYSKIE VESTI reports.

The army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA notes that Moslem countries in the Middle East try to play the religious card in the Chechen conflict. "Fundamentalists in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan put mass pressure on government circles in their countries to give aid to Dudayev.

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"They clearly want to lend the conflict religious colouring, to kindle fanaticism and consolidate nationalist forces under the slogan 'Revival of the Moslem nation'," the daily writes.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper reports particulars about the death of Dzhokhar Dudayev's 23-year-old son Avlur who died of wounds received during fighting for the city of Argun situated south-east of the Chechen capital Groznyy.

Dudayev's deceased son graduated from a Moscow secondary school and studied at the law school of Munich University over the past two years. He returned to Chechnya right after Russian troops were dispatched to the Chechen Republic.

"According to Chechen sources, the president's son participated in battles for the republic's independence along with rank-and-file gunmen, matching them in bravery," the newspaper notes.

Under the heading "Publicist's Notes", the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper carries an article by the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov who was recently appointed Russian ambassador to the Holy See.

He examines the work of the Russian press during the chechen Crisis. In his opinion, "the independent Russian press and television demonstrated their might. Indeed, they have become a power, may be even not the fourth one. Attempts to accuse journalists of all deadly sins show only helplessness of authorities in the face of their own serious crisis," Kostikov writes.

"I'd like to be understood correctly," Kostikov notes. I'm inclined least of all to belittle the responsibility of Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin. I am inclined even to a lesser degree to justify Grachev who bragged about an early victory," Kostikov stresses.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper features an interview with speaker of the Federation Council (Russian parliament upper chamber) Vladimir Shumeyko. According to the speaker, "the Federation Council did its best to prevent the tragic development of the conflict as well as casualties among civilians.

"Regrettably, our possibilities at this critical movement turned to be very limited," Shumeyko complained.

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Possible Clinton Visit Augurs End of Chechen War by May

MK1701082095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Karpov in the "Diplomacy" column: "Clinton Is Going to Moscow. Russia Intends To End the Chechen Trouble Before May"]

[FBIS Translated Text] That the heads of the Russian Federation and U.S. diplomatic departments intended to discuss the Chechen question at today's meeting between Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher in Geneva was known long ago. But literally on its eve, a highly placed diplomat from Smolenskaya Square said that it will not at all be the main issue at the negotiations. According to him, the next meeting between the Presidents of Russia and the United States is planned for May. The diplomat stressed that "there is an intention for President Clinton to arrive in Moscow at that time."

Clearly, there is no way Clinton can be invited to Russia, whose army is waging war on its own territory. Therefore Moscow must be hoping that its campaign against Groznyy will be fully over as early as this winter in spite of all the warnings about the possibility of a protracted guerrilla war. The current situation in Chechnya does not give particular hopes for a early end of hostilities. A further escalation should be expected. And not only in Groznyy but in the republic's entire territory. The Dudayevites do not seem to be giving out any special signs of agreeing to the "Moscow option."

The U.S. position on the Chechen issue was originally based on two principles: the recognition of Russia's interest in preventing the country's division on one hand, and its responsibility to act proceeding from universal human principles, recognizing human rights, on the other. Indications are that at the Geneva meeting Christopher will confirm such an approach. But whereas the first principle fully coincides with the Kremlin's positions, things are not quite so easy with the second one. Especially considering that the U.S. point of view on it has recently become more critical. It is maintained that the war in Chechnya is a serious backsliding insofar as concerns the market economy and democratic reform in Russia.

Although calls are being heard in the United States to stop betting on Yeltsin and start orienting toward Russia on the whole, Christopher is apparently convinced that the Russian president has not yet fully exhausted his potential as a democratic reformer and is still the guarantor of transformations in Russia. It was not accidental that to prepare his rendezvous with Kozyrev, he sent Strobe Talbott, known for his pro-Yeltsin position, to Brussels to a meeting with Kozyrev deputy Georgiy Mamedov. Furthermore, should the United States finally turn its back on the incumbent Russian president, there would be no question about their next meeting. Incidentally, the discussion of its parameters appears to be a good cause for not giving too close attention to Chechnya.

A substantial part of the negotiations, as became known, will be devoted to European problems. Apparently the main among them will be the questions of forming a new security system, and NATO expansion. It can be assumed that Kozyrev's negotiations with Christopher will somehow or other touch on the problem of U.S. aid to Russia. The secretary of state is inclined to treat this question taking the Unites States' own interests into account. Therefore its drastic reduction is hardly possible.

Another aspect of international politics that will certainly be touched on at the negotiations is Croatia's decision not to extend the UN peacekeepers' mandate after 31 March. As is known, Tudjman declined Clinton's direct request to review his decision.

Russian-U.S. Summit Planned for May in Moscow

LD1601114295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—A new Russian-U.S. summit is being planned for May and the possibility will be discussed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher during their Tuesday meeting in Geneva, a high-ranking official of the Russian Foreign Ministry told TASS on Monday.

"We have prospects of a summit meeting in May. There is an invitation and there is an intention of U.S. President Bill Clinton to arrive in Moscow at the time", the official said.

According to the diplomat, Russia is "ready for a serious, substantiated talk with its foreign partners on humanitarian and human rights aspects of the Chechen situation."

"But we proceed from the fact that the (Chechen) settlement is our internal affair and we shall ensure it according to our constitutional procedures", the official said.

Speaking about the official US reaction to the Chechen crisis, the high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said that "although it is becoming more critical as the conflict develops, it still contains two elements. Firstly, the United States always recognised and recognises that it is our internal affair. There are no doubts or clauses about that. Secondly, it is every time stressed that the United States stands for the preservation of the integrity of the Russian Federation".

However, the official admitted that sometimes there are "improper notes" in the American reaction to the

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Chechen developments like it was in the statement of a State Department spokesman which contained "inadequate assessment" of whether Russian actions correspond to the OCSE documents.

"When there are improper notes in the U.S. response, a rather tough reaction follows from the Russian side," the official said.

Commentary on U.S. Double Standards on Chechnya

LD1401152195 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1210 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Next, a look from Moscow by our observer Valentin Zorin. The events in Chechnya got extensive coverage in recent days. Today I would like to stress just one point, writes Valentin Zorin. I do not justify the blunders and mistakes committed by Russian representatives, especially military commanders, during the Chechen campaign. But at the same time I am absolutely convinced that someone in the United States is trying to make use of the situation to blow up normal relations between our countries. It's doubtful that Senator Tom Lantos and some of his fellow congressmen who recently put forward the proposal for a reassessment of economic aid to Russia, are sincerely concerned over the problem of human rights. Where were they when the United States' authorities kidnapped the former Panamanian President General Noriega and put him in jail in breach of the international law? Wasn't it because General Noriega was declared a criminal by Washington that it didn't occur to senators to stand up for his rights? What do they think is the difference between General Noriega and the Chechen separatist General Dzhokhar Dudayev? Surprisingly they have much in common, including drugs smuggling. But General Dudayev is to blame for the death of hundreds of innocent people, many more than on Noriega's conscience. Here again the world is faced with double standards used by Washington, only this time it plays into the hands of those who up to now quietly torpedoed economic aid to Russia, masking their reluctance by loud pledges. They are (?pumping) hysteria over Chechnya in a bid to mask three years of sabotage of aid to Russia by their suddenly awakened concern for human rights. Under these conditions the sincerity of this concern, as well as the honorable intentions of those who unfolded the present anti-Russian propaganda in the United States, are open to question. More likely they want to have the aid projects suspended in order to keep the discriminatory relics of the Cold War, blocking economic cooperation. That such a policy has no prospects is beyond any doubt. Primarily because the authors of the latest anti-Russian campaign do not realize that Russia is not a second-grade country to be treated in such a way. Those staking on weakening Moscow are short-sighted and politically unwise. They hold transient political reasons above long-term interests. The United States needs a stable democratic and single Russia. Replacing reasonable political strategy by propaganda speculations is ill-considered and unwise.

Diplomats Say Chechnya Hinders Talks With U.S.

MK1701110095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Warren Christopher Is Going To Set Andrey Kozyrev on the Right Path. Geneva Meeting Is Proceeding Amid an Abrupt Rise in Anti-Russian Rhetoric"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Chechnya is not the sole irritant in Russian-American relations, but it is, without doubt, the sharpest one. The Republican majority in Congress has threatened to stop U.S. aid to Russia and to postpone the ratification of the START II treaty. Moscow is insistently seeking a revision of flank limitations under the treaty on conventional forces in Europe in its favor, since now it is plainly evident that Russia will have to keep forces in the Caucasus that will considerably exceed quotas imposed by the treaty. In the OCSE talks, another round of which opened in Vienna yesterday, there is not the slightest gleam of agreement in sight.

Russian diplomats are rushing to produce counterclaims. So far they have managed to find only one: the Americans have conducted a test of a tactical ABM system that runs counter to the current ABM Treaty of 1972. Washington has conceded that, in the hope of persuading Moscow to accept a modification of the means of protection from missile technologies that was nonexistent when the ABM Treaty was signed. Possibly, Andrey Kozyrev had taken some home-tested arguments along to Geneva. It is clear, however, that the reserve is not large. According to a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, "every week of the continuation of the Chechen conflict is taking its toll on us."

Moscow Criticizes Planned U.S. Tactical ABM System Test

LD1601155195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—Moscow has described as a "very untimely step" the test of a tactical ABM system in the United States.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has said that "first information about the test leaked into the American press last week, and only after that did Washington notify the Russian side".

A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official told a briefing in Moscow Monday [16 January] that the "tactical ABM system was held at a time when both countries were

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holding discussions within the framework of a permanent consultative commission on distinctions between strategic and tactical ABM systems".

"In that situation Russia's position was explained to the American side through diplomatic channels and publicly. Russia believes that Washington's actions worsen the atmosphere at the consultations and may have a negative effect on the entire complex of security negotiations in general", the diplomat stated.

He said that when they meet in Geneva on January 17 and 18, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher "are to review positions on the problem to get the situation back on the normal track".

Kozyrev Denies Chechnya Has Isolated Yeltsin on World Scene

LD1601205495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—Russian Foreign Minister dismissed the argument that President Yeltsin became an isolated figure on the world scene as a result of events in Chechnya.

Kozyrev told journalists before flying to Geneva for a meeting with U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher Monday [16 January] that Yeltsin was in continuous contact with western leaders. Kozyrev added that Yeltsin had just sent a cable to his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton and had been discussing the Chechen problem on the telephone with foreign leaders. Kozyrev reminded his audience that the Russian president and parliament had been elected in free honest elections. He emphasized that the president and government acted in Chechnya on the basis of the Russian Constitution adopted in a popular referendum.

Kozyrev was confident that "Russia's partners and friends in the West will work out the necessary steps, especially so because the potential of the CSCE in tackling the humanitarian aspects of the Chechen problem remains open for cooperation with Russia rather than for speculations and accusations leveled against it."

Kozyrev Flies to Geneva for Talks With Christopher

LD1601173495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Urban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left on Monday [16 January] for Geneva where he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss cooperation between the two countries and the European security architecture.

Meeting journalists before his departure, Kozyrev said that Russia's cooperation with NATO requires a constructive and pragmatic discussion. In his view, NATO should fit in the European security architecture. "We are interested in how the North atlantic Alliance will transform, and how partnership between Russia and NATO will develop," he said.

The Geneva meeting will be an unprecedented one, Kozyrev said, adding that he and Christopher have agreed not to confine the talks to the protocol in order to discuss as many issues as possible.

Kozyrev stressed that the Chechnya conflict will not be discussed as a separate issue. "This is Russia's internal affair, but we will share information on this matter with the American delegation," he said.

The Russian foreign minister recalled that the Vancouver and Moscow declarations on U.S.-Russia partnership specify that internal processes in Russia and the United States should develop in such a way that would rule out estrangement between them and promote bilateral partnership.

"Russia has several questions which we would like to clarify," he added. In particular, Moscow wants to know how the Clinton administration is going to cooperate with the new congress in foreign affairs and, specifically, on relations with Russia.

Kozyrev Cited on Talks

LD1701115095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Jan 17 (INTERFAX)—Russia is doing everything it can to put an end to military confrontation in Chechnya, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated on Monday [16 January] evening upon his arrival in Geneva, our correspondent accompanying him reports.

On January 17 and 18, Kozyrev will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Kozyrev said that the events in Chechnya are a tragedy all of us would like to avoid and put an end to as soon as possible, and with the minimal loss of life.

He announced that the "federal authorities are trying to involve in the dialogue not only constructive civilian elements, but also military representatives in Chechnya." "Unfortunately, the illegal armed groups in Chechnya oppose the idea of reconciliation," he said.

Kozyrev expressed hope that the talks with Christopher will be both businesslike and constructive, and that they will deal "not only with the situation in Russia, including Chechnya, but also with what is going on in the U.S."

He explained that Russia was concerned about the wish of some Republican congressmen to freeze the ratification of the START-2 Treaty.

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He described as alarming the reports that Washington was enlarging the interpretation of the ABM Treaty without agreement with Russia.

He expressed confidence, however, that his talks with Christopher will not be tough.

"Developments in our countries must not undermine our partnership on the world arena," said Kozyrev.

Kozyrev Recounts Talk With Juppe on EU-Russia Agreement

LD1401184395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A conference of Russian regions is currently under way in Novgorod. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is attending the conference, commented that there have been some positive shifts in relations between the European Union and Russia.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] As regards the position of the West and the European Union [EU], the statements made there suggesting that the EU might refuse to sign an agreement with Russia were made in haste. This has effectively been disavowed now: I have had a detailed conversation with French Foreign Minister Juppe on this subject. We discussed the Chechen issue from the human rights point of view. The statements about refusing to sign the agreement were made hastily, without any decision on the part of the EU, and the EU is still in favor of concluding an agreement with Russia. [end recording]

Soskovets Talks To Japanese Envoy on Chechnya's Future

LD1401130595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1106 GMT 14 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Jan (TASS)—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has declared that the new government of Chechnya, formed on a democratic basis, that will appear after the restoration of a constitutional order in the republic, will be empowered to dispose of its natural resources independently and will be exempt for a certain period from making compulsory payments to the federal budget. This will enable the republic to obtain considerable funds to rebuild the economy.

Receiving Koji Watanabe, Japan's ambassador to Russia, the first deputy prime minister voiced the conviction that, after the elimination of the illegal armed formations, "a legitimate authority, obtained through holding of democratic elections" must be established in the Chechen Republic. Moreover, he particularly stressed that the fears being expressed about a change in the reform policy were completely unfounded and idle. "Reform is possible only in conditions of political stability and territorial integrity," he said. "No transformations will get under way if the country is divided into appanage principalities."

Soskovets pointed out that the Dudayev regime had "brought Chechnya's economy to total collapse." In confirmation, he cited the fact that just before federal forces were brought into Chechnya, not one of the four existing power stations had been operating. Yet, since it was plugged into Russia's unified energy grid, Chechnya was, in effect, "stealing up to 400 mW of electrical power from its neighbors."

The first deputy head of the government recalled that previously up to 10 million tonnes of oil used to be recovered annually in the Chechen Republic. During the rule of Dzhokhar Dudayev, that figure had fallen to 2 million tonnes. Moreover, he observed, the bulk of the proceeds had gone on arms purchases and on the enrichment of the small corrupt governing stratum.

Black Sea Fleet Head Denies Plan To Send Troops To Chechnya

LD1401142695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1412 GMT 14 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol, 14 Jan (TASS)—The marines of the Ukrainian Navy have adopted a message to the marines of the Black Sea Fleet in which they express their concern in connection with the possibility of its units being sent to the Chechen conflict area. According to a release by the press center of the Black Sea Fleet, this message caused surprise among the command of the Black Sea Fleet. No decisions on this matter have been made, commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Eduard Baltin said.

Source on Reasons for Yeltsin Missing Davos Economic Forum

LD1601105695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will miss the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, because of the situation in Chechnya.

"Boris Yeltsin does not believe it possible in the current situation to make a trip to the Swiss city of Davos to address the participants in the World Economic Forum in the end of January", Presidential Foreign Policy Aide Dmitriy Ryurikov told TASS on Monday.

Ryurikov said Yeltsin had long planned the trip and "regrets" that he was to miss the Davos forum because of the complicated situation in Russia.

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"The president was preparing a speech for the prestigious international forum, however circumstances connected with the Chechen conflict make him refrain from the trip", he said adding that, besides Davos, Yeltsin also planned to visit a number of international organisations in Switzerland and meet their leaders.

TASS learned from sources in Geneva that the Russian leader was to arrive in Switzerland on January 27 and deliver a 15-minute long speech in Davos.

Next day he was to visit the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne and meet its president Juan Antonio Samaranch, as well as to attend the opening ceremony of a monument to the founder of the Olympic movement Pierre de Coubertin from France.

Yeltsin was also expected to meet representatives of the UN Headquarters in Geneva, of UNICEF and of the high commissioner for refugees.

The annual Davos forum is attended by heads of state and government from some 70 countries, as well as by leaders of international organisation, of world business and major scholars.

Kostikov Statement Criticizes TV on Yeltsin-Kohl Talk

LD1401125095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1135 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, has today circulated the following statement:

"I cannot help expressing my regret about the fact that in a situation in which society presupposes balanced and accurate reporting of the Chechen conflict and the political circumstances connected with it, some media do not take into account the whole complex of social, psychological and political phenomena—which often leads to a distorted representation of the real facts and evaluations.

"In particular, there was an inaccuracy in the interpretation by the NTV channel of the import of yesterday's telephone conversation between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The presenter's commentary seemed to be saying that Helmut Kohl was criticizing the actions of the federal bodies of power in Chechnya. This does not correspond to the truth.

"In actual fact, having listened to Boris Yeltsin's information on the really dramatic development of the conflict in the Chechen republic, the German chancellor expressed understanding of the complexity of the Chechen situation and the duty and responsibility of the president of Russia for preserving its territorial integrity."

Russian Involvement in Kitovani March Denied

LD1301201895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1906 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin refuted any Russian involvement in the armed march against Abkhazia of a group of Georgian volunteers.

In an ITAR-TASS interview he described media reports to the effect as "insinuations" and stressed these claims "are absolutely ungrounded".

He said Moscow is concerned with reports that about 500 armed people under command of ex-Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani left for Abkhazia on 12 buses today.

Moscow May Allow OSCE Observers To Visit Chechnya

LD1301201595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 13 (INTERFAX)—Russian Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev said Russia might allow the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe to send its observers to Chechnya if the OSCE "unconditionally recognized the Chechen Republic as part of the Russian Federation."

Several international organizations "are showing increasing concern over developments in Chechnya," Kovalev told a news conference in Moscow on his return from the embattled republic. He said that, at a meeting he recently had with an OSCE official, it became clear that "there are a whole number of points on which we have no disagreements," including "the integrity of Russia and the unacceptability of separatism."

It could even be "useful" if international observers came, because they could then see on the spot what "misinformation" was being spread on the situation in Chechnya and "make a final decision, as they wish to do, on humanitarian aid" to the republic, the minister said.

Protocol Signed With Kazakhstan, Oman for Caspian Pipeline

LD1601182895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (PIA [PETROLEUM INFORMATION AGENCY])—Kazakhstan, Russia and Oman signed a protocol on the start of the first stage of laying a Caspian pipeline network, the board of directors of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) told the Petroleum Information Agency (PIA). The consortium had been founded by the three countries to implement the project worth up to $1.2 billion.

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CPC members also confirmed Oman's right to find another investor to purchase 25% of class B shares which entitle their owner to all kinds of revenues and economic privileges, but not to the voting right. At present, Oman and Kazakhstan control 33% of shares each, while Russia owns 34%.

At the same time, Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik told the PIA that the CPC, seeking to ensure the interests of its members, had stipulated that the main oil suppliers—Russia and the joint venture TengizChevroil, 50% of the shares of which belong to the U.S. chevron—will enjoy the priority in distributing CPC shares.

The CPC agreed to Oman's proposal to finance part of the first stage of the project worth about $150-200 million and provide financial guarantees for investments worth another $400-450 million. Oman participates in the construction of the oil pipeline network Tengiz-Tikhoretsk-Black Sea with a capacity of up to 70 million tonnes of oil a year through the state-run Oman Oil Company, its general director, Yevgeniy Davydov, told the PIA.

Commentator Criticizes China's Continued Nuclear Testing

OW1601161295 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 16 Jan 95

[From the "Good Evening, China" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the remark by a spokesman for the Chinese Government that nuclear tests will be continued this year, this station's commentator Kondratyev commented: I cannot but express my regret over the remark by the spokesman for the Chinese Government. The continuation of China's nuclear tests usually arouses repercussions from various continents, because other members of the nuclear club, namely Russia, the United States, Britain, and France, have all suspended their nuclear testing. China used to say that the number of its nuclear explosions was fewer than those of the other four nuclear powers, which was true, but one must see that the four nuclear powers have initiated a process of a complete suspension of nuclear tests and are drafting a treaty on this issue, which is very important to mankind.

China has participated in the drafting of this treaty. Therefore, the Chinese leader's decision to continue the nuclear tests is surprising. Various countries of the world, particularly in Asia, are rather concerned about the growth of China's nuclear strength. Thus, in the face of China's nuclear bombs, China's neighboring countries will also want to develop their own nuclear weapons. As everyone knows, a nuclear explosion is the result of a chain reaction caused by nuclear fission, and a nuclear explosion may also cause a chain reaction in the military and political fields.

I believe that the Chinese leader has adequate and enough wisdom and that China will suspend its nuclear explosions eventually.

British Nuclear Electric To Buy Uranium From Russia

LD1601042195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0309 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Voronkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 16 Jan—One of the leaders in British nuclear power, the state company "Nuclear Electric," is planning to replenish its reserves of uranium fuel with imports from Russia. The deal, for a period of seven years, is valued at 80 million pounds sterling. The deliveries of uranium to Great Britain will be effected through the agency of Moscow "Tekhsnabeksport" association.

The agreement became possible since, in the British side's view, Russia is a reliable source of cheap uranium fuel, which will make it possible for "Nuclear Electric," which currently relies mainly on the American market, to susbstantially cut its expenses. The company will obtain from Russia about 15 percent of all the uranium it requires—the maximum quantity permitted for importation into the country under Eueopean legislation. The Russian uranium will be supplied either in standard or slightly enriched form.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Praises PRES Faction for 'Restraint'

LD1601145295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1445 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—"I like the work of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord's faction in the State Duma because of its temperance, calm and restraint", Russian President Boris Yeltsin said, receiving the party's leaders headed by Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray in the Kremlin on Monday.

Today's meeting with members of the centrist Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES) was to continue the series of the Russian president's conferences with representatives of Russia's parliamentary factions, parties and public movements.

Addressing the PRES leaders, Yeltsin praised their party for the lack "of any extremist slogans and onslaughts". The PRES faction in the State Duma "behaves sensibly during debates over many state issues", he noted.

The meeting was held behind closed doors. It was attended by the Russian president's first aide Viktor Ilyushin and aide Georgiy Satarov.

Citizenship Law Receives Positive Assessment

954E0450C Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Article by A. Kozyreva: "I, A Citizen... In the past two years Russian citizenship was obtained by 250,000 of our countrymen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lately one increasingly hears voices stating that not a single law is working in the country. The law on citizenship of the Russian Federation, however, does work. The presidential edict on main directions of state policy of the Russian Federation regarding countrymen residing abroad is also now in effect. An additional edict was recently signed which solidifies a series of points in the law on citizenship. It is for good reason that while visiting Pskov oblast, Boris Yeltsin called on Russians living in the Baltic region to move there. Today there is a legal base in Russia for the protection of countrymen.

Over 250,000 of our countrymen abroad received Russian citizenship in accordance with the law, including 172,000 in the so-called near abroad. By way of comparison, only 42 individuals submitted applications to forfeit their Russian Federation citizenship this year. Abdulakh Mikitayev, chairman of the Commission on Citizenship of the President of the Russian Federation, believes that the documents are working well for a very simple reason: they are helping to resolve many problems which are encountered by countrymen in applying for Russian citizenship. At the same time Russian laws are in full accord with international law.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Every individual has the right to citizenship. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of his citizenship or his right to change citizenship."

That is why Russian enforceable enactments stipulate that former citizens of the RSFSR who have returned to our country for residence are regarded as citizens of the country, while those whose citizenship is considered reinstated are those who were forced to leave Russia for political reasons. Many former Soviet republics, however, believe that they can ignore the declaration and other international documents and are thus doing everything they can to get rid of Russians residing on their territory. National prejudice may be consolidated on the legislative level, for instance, as it was done in Latvia, or it may take place on a day-to-day basis: Russians are not served in cafes, Russian schools and kinderartens are closed, and they are fired from work—in general they are forced out of the republic by all possible means. It is, of course, possible to say that the basis of such an attitude toward our countrymen consists of the law on state language, adopted in the currently sovereign republics, which declared the Russian language in essence to be a second-class language. That is why the declaration made by Russia to the effect that it will defend all of its ethnic Russians no matter where they live and will insist on the granting of basic human rights and freedoms to them, was so principled. When situations develop threatening lives and welfare of our countrymen in regions of the former Soviet Union, the Russian government must be ready for such a turn of events.

That position does not mean Russia is promoting mass exodus of Russians from other countries. On the contrary, our country believes that everyone has the right to remain where he was born and resides. But everyone has the right to use his native language, receive an education in it, and preserve his culture while having access to information from Russia.

Abdulakh Mikitayev believes that today the Council of Europe bears responsibility for human rights violations in Latvia and Estonia inasmuch as it accepted Estonia in that organization, disregarding cases of discrimination against ethnic Russians. From now on Russia will conduct a more rigid policy toward states flouting laws on citizenship. Just such a rigid approach was demonstrated by Russia in response to the territorial claims of Estonia.

The position held by the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], which worked out a concrete mechanism for realization of the law and the edicts, may be regarded as constructive. Today all that is necessary for those who have come to Russia and wish to become citizens of our country is file a standard application with organs of internal affairs at their place of residence.

Of course, it is impossible to say that there were no problems at all faced by the Citizenship Commission,

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the Government Commission for Affairs of Countrymen Abroad, or the Passport and Visa Service of the MVD. There are cases when arrivals from the other republics have no documents. In addition to that many are complaining that the registration process no longer exists but at the same time the old decree on registration and re-registration has not been repealed. Today everyone has the right to register at his place of residence, but it is not easy to own an apartment in the various krays and in different republics. That is why some MVD officials are seriously proposing the introduction of a common law on double citizenship or even common CIS citizenship.

So far money for resettlement of migrants is concentrated in the federal budget. At the same time each specific case is actually handled by the local organs of power. They are the ones who need the money. Viktor Belov, director of the Passport Service of the Internal Affairs Administration of Orlov Oblast, recently remarked with some bitterness in the course of the conference on issues of citizenship acquisition which was held in the presidential administration—"So far we have been able to give those who arrive nothing but some kind words." One would like to really help right away with housing and clothing. Some of these people arrive at a new place with just the clothes on their backs. If some money would be available Orlov Oblast could receive half-a-million people. It seems that under a strong legal base it is necessary to build a reliable material base. It would apparently make good sense to allow some tax breaks for those territories that accept refugees in order to create the funds which are needed so much to really help the migrants.

Yeltsin Changes Russian Patent Committee Statute

954E0450A Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 4

[Item titled: "Russian Patent Committee and Its Rights. Edict of the President of the Russian Federation on Amendment and Changes of the Regulation on the Committee of the Russian Federation on Patents and Trademarks Adopted by Edict of the President of the Russian Federation of 12 February 1993, No. 223"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. Introduce the following changes and amendments in the Regulation on the Committee of the Russian Federation on Patents and Trademarks which was adopted by decree of the president of the Russian Federation on 12 February 1993, No. 223 (Collection of Enactments of the President and the Government of the Russian Federation, 1993, No 8, page 655):

a) In Point 1 replace the words "is a central organ of federal executive power" with the following words: "is a federal organ of executive power:"

b) Point 3 is to read as follows:

"3. Rospatent [Committee of the Russian Federation on Patents and Trademarks] is guided in its activities by the constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, edicts, and directives of the president of the Russian Federation, decrees and directives of the government of the Russian Federation, as well as by this statute;"

c) In Point 5:

In the second paragraph the words "in interaction with the Ministry of Science and Technology Policy of the Russian Federation, other interested organs of federal executive power, organs of state power of republics of the Russian Federation" are to be replaced with the words: "in interaction with the Ministry of Science and Technical Policy of the Russian Federation, other interested federal organs of executive power, organs of executive power of subjects of the Russian Federation;"

In the twelfth paragraph the words "with executive organs of state power" are to be replaced with the words "with organs of executive power;"

d) In the second paragraph of Point 6 the words "central organs of federal executive power, other state organs" are to be replaced with the words "federal organs of executive power;"

e) The first paragraph of Point 7 is to be supplemented with the words: "upon request of the chairman of the government of the Russian Federation;"

f) In Point 9:

In the first paragraph the words "the republic budget of the Russian Federation" are to be replaced with the words "federal budget;" the words "of the organs of state administration" are to be replaced with the words "of the federal organs of executive power;"

In the second paragraph the words "of the republic budget of the Russian Federation" are to be replaced with the words "of the federal budget;"

g) In the first paragraph of Point 11 the words "of organs of state administration" are to be replaced with the words "of organs of executive power."

2. This edict goes into effect on the date of its publication.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 8 January 1995

No. 15

Yeltsin Appoints Panskov to Security Council

LD1601101395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Finance Miinister Vladimir Panskov as non-voting

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member of his powerful Security Council on Monday, the press service of the Russian leader said.

Last week the speakers of both chambers of the Russian Parliament, Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin, were promoted by Yeltsin to the position of permanent members of the council which gave them decision-making voting rights in the body which okayed the use of force against separatist Chechnya.

Downsizing Plan Notes 30 Percent Reduction

MK1301130695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker in the "Structures" column: "The Government Is Invited To Downsize Itself. There Are More Than 1.5 Million Administrators in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has become known that First Vice Premier Soskovets has received the materials of the interdepartmental working group on improving the structure of federal executive bodies. The document substantiates the need to reorganize the apparat which runs the country. Currently there are 24 ministries, 25 state committees and committees, 15 federal services, one department, two federal agencies, and one main administration in Russia. The overall size of the managerial personnel is 1.66 million people, with 825,000 working in state power bodies and 835,000 in other budget-subsidized organizations. Compared to 1989, the number of administrative staff in the country has grown 1.7 times, while territorial administration bodies subordinated to the federal executive branch have grown by two-thirds. As for the ministries' and departments' central apparats, they have 35,800 employees. The share of expenditures for apparat maintenance (without law enforcement bodies) has grown in the consolidated budget from 3.2 percent in 1993 to 3.4 percent in 1994.

It is not only increased size and cost, however, that have prompted the government to look for ways of reorganization. The structure of federal bodies is so cumbersome that services often duplicate each other's tasks and functions, while some major economic spheres are left with no one in charge. Thus, there are some serious deficiencies in regulating the activity of state enterprises and companies which are partially state-owned.

The interdepartmental working group, which, according to information from the White House, is headed by First Deputy Economy Minister Urinson, proposes an improvement of the economic management system. To this end, the government will concentrate in its hands administrative powers and responsibility for running the national economy. The White House will take on ensuring the country's sovereignty, economic regulation, administration of state property, and social policy. A substantial part of economic management functions should be delegated to the executive bodies of the federation subjects. Because privatization has radically changed the structure of property in Russia, the functions of state administration and economic management should be clearly separated. The Cabinet of Ministers will delegate some state property administration functions to interbranch and interregional corporations, companies, and financial-industrial groups.

It is proposed to reorganize federal bodies into "three levels" of structure. The first is the political-state level (the government chairman, the presidium, deputy chairmen, and federal ministers). The administrative-federal level includes ministries, committees, and federal services. The administrative-regional level will be constituted by the territorial bodies of the federal executive bodies and the executive bodies of federation subjects.

The working group's proposals are based on the assumption that the Economy Ministry should concentrate on long-term socioeconomic state policy, the development of economic reform strategy, formulation of macroeconomic forecasts, and substantiation and implementation of structural-investment and regional policy. The Finance Ministry should pursue a single state financial policy: It will draft the federal budget and ensure its execution, and direct the streamlining of the tax system. Group experts consider it advisable to place the State Tax Service, the Russian State Committee for Precious Metals, the Federal Hard Currency and Export Control Service, and the Russian Insurance Oversight Administration [Rosstrakhnadzor] under its jurisdiction. It is also proposed to abolish the Ministry for Cooperation with the CIS States [Minsotrudnichestvo] and to cede its functions to the Interstate Economic Committee of the CIS countries and the Russian Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Ministries.

If the working group's opinion is supported, the Ministry for Nationalities Affairs and the Ministry for the Environment [Minprirody] will be substantially reorganized, and the Labor Ministry and the Social Welfare Ministry will be merged. The Fuel and Energy Ministry, the Railways Ministry, the Transport Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, and the Communications Ministry will be kept intact. It is planned to rehabilitate the Industry Ministry on the basis of six sectoral committees, including such major players as the State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Committee for Metallurgy, and the Russian Committee for Machine Building. It is likely that the positions of the State Property Committee will be strengthened even further, if its jurisdiction—as it is planned—includes having charge of all forms of state property, including land and natural resources.

The complete implementation of the working group's project will make it possible to abolish one ministry, 14 committees, two federal services, two federal agencies, and one department. The size of the central apparat will as a result be downsized by 30 percent.

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Fedorov Receives Support for Presidential Bid

MM1301143195 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 1

[PRAVDA-ITAR-TASS report from the "In Brief" column: "Fedorov's Presidential Candidacy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 3,000 signatures have been collected by Tver supporters of the Duma's "12 December" faction leader, Boris Fedorov, in support of the former finance minister's bid for the Russian presidency.

Intelligence Service on 'Nuclear Mafia'

MK1301131995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov under the "Security" rubric: "Moscow Thinks Nuclear Smuggling Threat Exaggerated. It Is Not Mafia's Business, but That of Petty Criminals"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is well known that the Russian origin of plutonium seized in Germany has not been confirmed. The subject of nuclear smuggling from the former USSR is far from closed, however. Some in Moscow believe that the hoopla over Russian fissionable materials is being stirred up artificially.

The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] thinks rumors about the "Russian nuclear mafia" to be greatly exaggerated and provocative. In the FIS' view, no extensive, well-organized, and secret networks of highly professional criminals similar to that of the drug-trafficking business exist in the illicit trade in fissionable materials. Russian intelligence service experts believe that this area, on the contrary, is the domain of petty criminals, whose business is being supported by Western intelligence services, which buy the commodities in order to create a semblance of activity. From the FIS point of view, the mass media have also acted dubiously by publishing "price lists" for radioactive materials and thus provoking criminals into stealing them. Intelligence specialists see reports about the existence of a "black market" for uranium fuel as clearly absurd. Weapons-grade nuclear materials are another matter: on this issue Russia is ready to cooperate with Western countries, but the latter, in the FIS' view, should first of all look at themselves and take steps to prevent the leakage of dual-purpose and military technologies.

The problem of the safe storage of fissionable materials is not purely Russian. For instance, the FIS turned its attention to a report by Stanford University's International Security and Arms Control Center, which contains numerous facts relating to this subject. The authors of the report note, for instance, that during simulated terrorist raids the "raiders" managed not only to penetrate maximum-security areas of U.S. nuclear installations, but also to simulate incidents of stealing and sabotage. Also known are incidents where large quantities of fissionable materials were reported missing. Stanford experts point out the inadequacy of inventory registration and personnel screening procedures, and also the Energy Department's clear unwillingness to share negative information with the public.

The disconcerting conclusions by the authors of the report can prove anything but the impossibility of similar incidents at Russian nuclear installations. At any rate, we are not aware of any results of independent expert appraisals conducted in Russia. What the public keeps hearing from the officials is either assertions that national security measures are fully reliable, or invective addressed to certain "circles" and "forces" that are allegedly trying to put the entire Russian nuclear weapons complex under international control. We would venture to suggest that for many Russian citizens such control would be more reassuring than the statesmen's vows. [passage omitted]

Rybkin on Chechnya, Agricultural Sector

MM1301103995 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Jan 95 pp 1,2

[Interview with Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma, by Viktor Gribachev and Boris Pilipenko: "We Must Support Agricultural Commodity Producers in Every Way"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Ivan Petrovich, in our conversation we wanted to touch on many pressing problems that are bothering people. But, as you will agree, no matter what we talk about, no matter what economic and social matters we look at, we simply cannot avoid the events in Chechnya. They are our agony and shame rolled into one. We would like to know your view.

[Rybkin] I have expressed my opinion of the events in Chechnya on several occasions. Truly they are a source of pain... My position is firm and in no way does it diverge from the Duma's decisions concerning the events in the North Caucasus. And, guided as we are primarily by the Russian Constitution and Russians' interests, we have been insisting on a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Duma adopted a decree on an amnesty for all those involved in the armed actions and laid down the conditions for the talks by means of its decree "On the situation in the Chechen Republic as a component of the Russian Federation," thereby stressing that the Chechens were being offered suitable conditions: Lay down your arms and accept the amnesty. Several hundred people have accepted the amnesty.

But it is the best option, the best way out of the situation currently on offer. "A bad peace is better than a good quarrel," as they say.

Russia's laws and the Russian Federation Constitution must operate throughout the territory. We simply cannot

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have it any other way. Because it would rapidly metastasize all over the country. And the losses to the economy are already incalculable, as I have said many times before. Some 90 percent of the Chechen economy is at a standstill. Essentially, its economy is only being used for mercenary purposes. Primarily we are talking about oil production, about an oilfield. Indeed, the Chechen Republic used to produce six percent of the Soviet Union's total output. This giant component of the economy was created through the joint efforts of all the citizens of our country. Now it is all at a standstill: Due to the incompetence, unprofessioanl approach, and ambitions of the leaders, who failed to do their job, because all they are capable of doing, unfortunately, is firing guns.

And they have learned to do this rather well. Mercenaries were drawn in from all over the world as well. Human blood is flowing, rivers of it, alas —that is the awful thing! It must be stopped; all wars end in peace. I believe the Chechen conflict, shall we say, will be settled.

[Correspondent] Fingers crossed. But it is clear to anyone with any sense that the Chechen war, which has brought so much pain and suffering, is costing the Russians themselves a packet and impoverishing our already meager diet, indeed we are talking about many trillions of rubles, war expenditure not allowed for even in our budget. It seems to us it will be difficult to resolve all this overnight. What is the solution?

[Rybkin] As an optimist, I would say there are no hopeless situations. But I would like my optimism to have a strong foundation. So it is about time we addressed our agricultural producers, because they are indispensable. Indeed, whatever happens, I can say one thing: The heaviest strategic dependence of all is food. It is something now felt by millions. Even given that food is being supplied 10-15 percent cheaper than our producers' prices.

Let no one be reassured by this. The most dangerous thing is complacency. Today food is, say, 10-15 percent cheaper; tomorrow it will be at face value; the day after tomorrow it will be 50 percent dearer and more.

Unfortunately—and we have to admit it—we are also being supplied with poor-quality food. Because it comes from the strategic stocks of other states—the states that are supplying the food. Incidentally, reserves there are being replenished at Russia's expense. It is mind-boggling how Russia, a country that is very rich in food resources, has gotten into this situation.

I believe we should support our agricultural producers in every way. The relevant draft laws have been elaborated. We adopted a decree on providing for the activities of the country's agroindustrial complex in 1995. We sent it to the government, where it met with appreciation and support.

Just before the new year a Russian Federation presidential edict was adopted "On Rescheduling the Debts of Agro-Industrial Complex Enterprises and Organizations Relating to Centralized Credits Issued in 1993-1994." These debts, amounting to some 5.6 trillion rubles [R], become part of the Russian Federation national domestic debt, within the upper limit set by the law "On the federal budget for 1994," when the Russian Finance Ministry issued the Russian Federation Central Bank with bills of exchange to be paid back in equal installments over a period of 10 years at 10 percent interest per annum.

It should be stressed that the rescheduling of debts also applies to agricultural producers whatever the form of ownership. So, as you can see, there is hope that the countryside will take heart. What else do you do? In no country of the world can agriculture exist without support. For example, in 26 developed countries of Europe (not counting the countries of the so-called eastern bloc) this support can be as much as 40 percent. In Japan it is as much as 80 percent!

Here in Russia, though, there are those who wanted to give the contryside nothing and merely fleece it. So they fleeced it ruthlessly...

[Correspondent] SELSKAYA ZHIZN has received many letters demanding that there should be no free sale of land. Letters in which people's anger knows no bounds... The well-known Poet Nikolay Dorizo expressed the general mood: "So we are having a massive sale of land. The land where my grandfather, father, and mother lie. Land, land... But it is our fatherland! Can you sell the fatherland?..."

[Rybkin] I fully agree with your readers. Dorizo's description was very graphic. What can I say? The Constitution provides for a variety of forms of ownership, a variety of forms of management. It was on this basis that the elaboration of part 1 of the Civil Code was completed. It provides for a multiplicity of forms of ownership and a multiplicity of forms of management, in particular of land. But I must say right away that this does not solve all the problems.

For one thing we have suspended article 17 where it talks about regulating land arrangements. A Land Code has now been devised. It is meant to regulate all land arrangements. This is very important. There are two versions. One version of the Land Code was submitted by the Committee on Agrarian Matters, and the second version, the so-called "Law On Land," was devised by the "Russia's Choice" faction. They differ on certain points. A conciliation group is working at the moment, painstakingly seeking the consensus that has to be sought whenever there are alternative drafts on the same topic. And even when there are no alternative drafts, but there are simply different opinions for which you have to find a common denominator. There have to be 50 percent plus one of the total number of deputies for a vote in favor.

And another thing. The Land Code envisages regulation of buying and selling. As you know, at the moment, of

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the owner's three powers—possession, use, and disposal—only two are fully exploited—possession and use. As for powers of disposal, this matter has not been fully regulated, but I believe it will be resolved.

There is some sense too in the proposals on the use of the lease form of landholding.

In democratic conditions there is always a choice, and therefore it is out of the multiplicity of forms of ownership and forms of management that you establish a democratic system of life on the land, literally and metaphorically. And the moral basis of the reforms is very important to us.

Back in 1990-1991, when these difficult questions were being tackled, I said that while the arguments were going in, we might switch to long-term leasehold ownership of land, with the right to buy on the basis of one's own savings, on the basis of labor, creative labor on that land. And the 10 percent of the reserve land fund, which is intended for the reform of agriculture, must be used intelligently, with support being provided for all forms of economic activity on the land: farmers, stockholders, members of associations, and those who have remained in state farms and in collective farms.

[Correspondent] Ivan Petrovich, our readers, and, therefore, your voters are asking for changes to be made to the tax system. Taxes are noticeably making people tighten their belts more and more...

[Rybkin] We are working on tax legislation with the government and our views very often differ. Obviously you have already heard that the tax legislation proposed by the government has twice been rejected by the Duma. Rejected precisely because in many ways the tax burden continues to be oppressive for the Russian producer—it is unbearable. Our proposal back in July said that they should not start taxing individuals when they earn R120,000 per month. How do you live in the meantime?

We favor easing the tax burden. But try to appreciate the following fact: 40 percent of the economy is now the shadow economy and it pays no taxes. I am giving you official Ministry of Labor figures. They have been published. Therefore, the statistical equilibrium that is sometimes shown is not entirely true. One is reminded of the classic phrase: There are lies, damn lies, and statistics. Unfortunately, the statistics are not managing to keep up with the rapid phenomena taking place in the country today.

We are also advocating a tax amnesty for those who in one way or another owe taxes to the state as of 1 January 1995, whether individuals or corporate bodies. Moreover, a hard currency amnesty would be appropriate. Since we are severely rationed when it comes to capital investments and the implementation of many of our ventures and undertakings, we do not have proper financial support and sometimes look for it in other places, outside the country. At the same time, we have allowed capital to flow out of the country. And this is not a new phenomenon. The process has essentially been going on for four years. At the moment the figure is $1.5-2 billion per month. In the space of four years approximately $100 billion have been taken out of Russia. Not just taken out, but taken out by specific individuals, the possessors of these fortunes. The number of our compatriots who have gone abroad now runs into many thousands. This money is now starting to return in a roundabout way, via foreign firms, via foreign firms' investments. Why don't we act without go-betweens, directly for the benefit of the Russian state?

[Correspondent] Finally, what people are particularly bothered about is prices. No one can understand why the state is unable to regulate prices...

[Rybkin] I entirely agree with people who say this. Our deliberations show that in principle the private sector constitutes a significant percentage of the economy, more even than is shown by our Russian state statistics that only 40 percent has gone into the shadow economy. Nonetheless, that which is state property should actually be run by the state. What is needed first of all is the restoration of control of the econony, preferably using economic levers. In the case of the nonstate sector you would have indirect control, again through a system of economic incentive levers, a system of taxes, licences, and so on. But state organs must not be entirely removed from the regulation process.

I could cite other countries as examples. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, U.S. President in the thirties, the years of the great depression in that great country, called upon a man who had mastered the methods of state regulation—the famous economist, Keynes—and state regulation now operates in the United States and in all West European countries too. We must not be an exception. We absolutely must not leave everything to the mercy of fate. I must tell you, dear readers, that we must begin at the very beginning: rates for transport operations, rates for electricity and other energy sources. The czar, whose name is often taken in vain, who is sometimes cursed, knew this and, for example, set the kind of rates that were convenient and advantageous both for those living in the Far East and for those in Central Russia. Today you get a situation where they pay R6 for one kilowatt-hour of electricity in Irkutsk and R160 in the Far East and the Maritime Kray! An obvious shambles.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I am very keen not to fall under the power of the bureaucrats again, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, not to end up with the kind of chaos that results when instead of a market you get the bazaar the prime minister talked about when he took up office two years ago.

Zhirinovskiy, Others Debate Election Law

LD1301204195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1410 GMT on 13 January broadcasts a live 40-minute studio debate on the draft law on

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presidential elections with Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy; Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Duma Legislation Committee; and Boris Fedorov.

Isakov, whose committee drafted the bill, explains that in view of public interest in the bill, the committee decided to invite 19 potential presidential candidates to attend a televised parliamentary hearing. He lists these as Sergey Baburin, Mikhail Gorbachev, Yegor Gaydar, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Gennadiy Zyuganov, General Lebed, Yuriy Luzhkov, Boris Nemtsov, Romanov, Aleksandr Rutskoy, Ivan Rybkin, Yuriy Skokov, Anatoliy Sobchak, Oleg Soskovets, Boris Fedorov, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Sergey Shakhray, Vladimir Shumeyko, and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. He says most failed to respond; only Zhirinovskiy and Fedorov agreed to take part today.

An unidentified announcer begins by asking Zhirinovskiy and Fedorov whether Russia actually needs a president. Zhirinovskiy replies: "I believe we definitely need the post of head of state. Not everybody may like the word 'president.' Let's call him the Chairman of the State Council or Chairman of the Republic, as they do in China. Many people are allergic to foreign words. But the meaning of all these things is the same. There must be a single supreme leader. This is especially so in Russia because for a thousand years—well, maybe not throughout that time, but for a lot of it—we have had a monarchy. The people have got used to the idea of autocracy and a tsar. For almost 70 years a single party had a monopoly on power and its general secretary performed the functions of a tsar to all intents and purposes. The current president's powers are almost identical to those of the tsars up to 1917 and the general secretary after that. So this post has already established itself in Russian political life. All that changes is the name, trappings, and anthem. The basic idea remains the same.

"Why does Russia need such a post? It is a huge, multiethnic country. In a small country like Latvia, for example, a state which is temporarily independent, or Belgium.... [pauses] Belgium even has a king. It's not a republic. It doesn't have a president. They've kept their king. The Netherlands is the same. So, traditions must be retained. We definitely have to have a head of state.

"Another important factor is the encirclement of Russia. We face a constant military threat. All the states surrounding us, all of them, have territorial claims on us—Finland, all the states of Eastern Europe, including Poland, Romania, and Hungary. The same applies to more southerly states—Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and especially China. In these conditions, if a battering ram is needed, if very important decisions are needed, we won't be able to take them, because 400 deputies, not to mention 700, will never agree on what needs doing. National interests may require the head of state to take especially important, historic decisions overnight, on behalf of everybody. If such decisions have to be debated, approved by the people, aired on TV, nothing will happen. There will be anarchy. So we definitely need a head of state, a single person. That person is now called the president."

The announcer then asks: "Isn't there a danger that this person might usurp too much power?"

Zhirinovskiy replies: "Certainly, no political regime will ever be perfect, ideal. The ancient Novgorod state, the Greek republics and the Roman Empire all collapsed in the end. Every regime has a beginning and end. But we have to base what we do on tradition. We have to ask ourselves what is most characteristic of Russia, where we live. Then we will take the correct decisions. I believe that we definitely need a head of state."

Answering the same question, Fedorov says: "My view is that a head of state is definitely needed. It has nothing to do with Turkey, traditions, or autocracy. The key question is the stage of development we have now reached. Clearly, we are passing through a transitional period. After 70 years of going nowhere, we are trying to integrate ourselves with world civilization. We cannot bring in these reforms or survive this transitional period if we rely entirely on consensus or purely parliamentary means. Unfortunately, these past few years have shown that the institution of the presidency is not perfect. Maybe the president does have excessive powers, especially under the new Constitution. But parliament has shown itself to be even less capable of achieving anything. So, I believe that we need a head of state. The question of the powers that the president is given must be examined in detail. If I was president, for example, I would renounce certain powers and hand them over to parliament, so that the balance of power in the state is respected. But in such transitional periods, Russia cannot succeed unless there is a fairly tough and strong authority in charge." The panelists then discuss aspects of the new law. Isakov says it envisages arrangements similar to those which prevailed in 1991 when the country's first president was elected. He adds that too many changes were not good for democracy, as the different methods used in successive parliamentary elections had shown. Zhirinovskiy advocates restricting candidates to the age 40-60, saying the youthful politicians of recent years had harmed the country as they lacked experience. He adds that the election campaign should last a year. Fedorov says there is nothing wrong with youth, however, the new law ought to restrict candidates to those born in Russia. Zhirinovskiy then asks how Russia is defined, saying the Soviet Union is Russia.

Isakov says the new law will try to reduce vote rigging as far as possible, though you can never get rid of it altogether in Russia. He adds that foreign observers will be brought in to monitor the elections and the Supreme Court will have powers to annul the elections if there was blatant falsification of results. Zhirinovskiy complains about unfair television coverage of the 1991 elections.

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The announcer defends Russian TV's role, saying it was a very small organization in those days. Fedorov says the new law should specify ways of punishing candidates who tell lies, adding that if Zhirinovskiy told lies about him, all he could do at the moment would be to challenge him to a duel.

At the conclusion of the debate, both Zhirinovskiy and Fedorov summarize their positions in one minute each.

Zhirinovskiy Announces Presidential Bid

LD1601060395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Victor Makarov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syktyvkar January 16 TASS—Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has announced he will run for president in Russia's 1996 presidential elections.

Zhirinovskiy made his announcement in Syktyvkar where he and two other Duma deputies appeared ahead of the elections to the parliament of the Republic of Komi scheduled for January 22.

Zhirinovskiy called on the local audience to vote in favour of his party's candidates in the local elections and promised that the Liberal Democrats would be most active in the election to the country's Federal Assembly at the end of this year.

Zhirinovskiy said his party is ready to support the idea of early elections of the president and parliament of the Russian Federation, but it can also wait until "their scheduled dates".

Kovalev on Break With Communist Party

LD1301210295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—"The decision made by the Duma's faction of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation on January 10 on expulsion of Valentin Kovalev from the party has nothing to do with me, because I withdrew from the party four days before the decision was made," Russian Minister of Justice Valentin Kovalev told a Moscow news conference on Friday.

According to Kovalev, he decided to withdraw from the party by himself and informed the ledership of the Communist faction and the State Duma's council about the move immediately.

Touching on the reasons which prompted his decision, Kovalev said: "I have always thought that non-party people do not have to obey to the party discipline. After I was appointed minister of justice, I declared that in accordance with my personal convictions I am about performing my functions as a person, a professional lawyer, a doctor of sciences (law), rather than a representative of the Duma's Communist faction."

The faction's decision did not offend him, even though it was made to coincide with his birthday, Kovalev said.

"I do not intend to split neither the Communist Party, nor its Duma's faction," Kovalev pointed out.

According to Kovalev, he made the statement to clarify things.

"I am proud that, as before, I and the faction have a vision of the world and friendly relations, which will hopefully last for ever," Kovalev said.

Communists Prepare for Upcoming Congress

MM1701101795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Communist Party of Russian Federation Ahead of Its Congress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Third Congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation will be held 21-22 January in the Hall of Columns of the House of the Unions in Moscow. A total of 100 delegates and guests representing foreign communist parties from 45 countries will be present.

The congress will adopt the party program, which reaffirms loyalty to the ideas of socialism. Constructed in the form of a minimum program and a maximum program, it characterizes Russia's development in the third millennium and outlines an action program for a party in opposition prior to taking to power and after the assumption of power together with the progressive and patriotic forces. The top-priority tasks are defined: organizational consolidation, party discipline, rejuvenation, systematic political training of communists, and the education of non-party people.

Kozyrev on 'Civic Duties' Over Chechnya

LD1301175495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Novgorod January 13 ITAR-TASS—"Unfortunately, a path towards unity sometimes goes through a tragedy or blood," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said here today commenting on Chechen developments. "We have enough civic duty and courage to survive this period. We are not the first and the only ones to spill blood for state unity".

The minister came to Novgorod today to attend a meeting of heads of Russian regions, Ukraine and Byelarussia [Belarus].

Andrey Kozyrev lamented over victims of the clashes and said "Dudayev militants do not give us another chance. This is a tragedy for us, but we must survive it".

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Asked why the Chechen campaign was not prepared politically or diplomatically, Kozyrev said "being the foreign minister, I could interfere only after recognizing Chechnya as a foreign state".

Kovalev on Security Council Resolutions

LD1301181095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Decrees of the Russian president, including those taken on resolutions of the Russian Security Council, are obligatory for fulfilment by all Russian power bodies, Russian Minister of Justice Valentin Kovalev told a briefing today. He was asked about lawfulness of resolutions of the Russian Security Council.

Under the Russian Constitution, the Security Council is a conciliatory body. However, the regulations on Security Council approved by the Russian president note that council resolutions dwelling on Russian security are legalized by decrees of the state head.

Some mass media bodies have voiced an opinion that council resolutions concerning the operation on disarmament of Chechen illegal units are lacking the legal basis. The council was described by some newspapers as "a new politburo or junta".

The minister refused to answer an ITAR-TASS question whether he was offered to join the Security Council. As known, ex-Minister of Justice Yuriy Kalmykov was a member of the Russian Security Council.

Criminal Proceedings Begin Against Chechen Units

LD1301164295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—The Russian Procurator General's Office has instituted criminal proceedings in connection with lawless actions of illegal armed units on Chechen territory and on charge of gangsterism and terrorism (Articles 77 and 213-3 of the Russian Criminal Code).

A document of the office's public relations center received by ITAR-TASS today says that the constitutional bodies were barred from power by extremist groups in 1991 in the former Chechen-Ingush Republic. In summer and fall 1991 the Groznyy TV center was seized, the Chechen-Ingush parliament and government building was attacked, Chechen-Ingush parliament deputies and officials were attacked and beaten up, and large-scale disturbances were instigated in the Chechen-Ingush Interior Ministry's investigation ward and claimed human lives.

Arms have been actively seized and illegal armed units have been formed in Chechnya within the past three years. Measures taken by the Russian federal authorities to restore constitutional order on Chechen territory were actively resisted. Russian servicemen are being attacked and murdered in the republic, hostages are being taken, terrorist acts are being committed to harm civilians.

The investigation will "thoroughly check up the information about preparations for revenge whose objects are 'Russian politicians and military of the highest rank'. These actions will be given a corresponding legal estimation".

An investigation brigade has been formed to include staffers of the Procurator's Office, the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service and interior bodies.

Duma Urges Yeltsin To Halt Combat

LD1301173595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13—The State Duma (lower house of the Russian legislature) adopted a resolution on Friday urging President Boris Yeltsin and the government "to take comprehensive measures to stop combat actions on the territory of Chechnya and create conditions for a political settlement of the conflict".

The Duma suggested that the president set up a state commission to investigate and give the legal assessment to "actions of officials which have resulted in deaths and destructions in the northern Caucasus".

Deputies stated that the constitution of the Russian Federation should be amended so that the control functions of the parliament are broadened.

The Duma also stated that within a week, the "Parliament" radio and TV company should resume its work (suspended last October after a hard-line revolt in Moscow - TASS).

Dudayev Supporters Seen To 'Step Up' Fighting

LD1301173395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 13 (INTERFAX)—The press service of the Russian Government referring to military sources in Groznyy says that pro-Dudayev supporters have stepped up fighting against federal troops after a government-declared two-day cease-fire forcing the latter to respond according.

The report denies any aerial attacks on Groznyy in the past twenty-four hours.

It says that most of the Russian officers gave a negative response to the government announcement of a cease-fire which enabled "the gangster units" to regroup and arrange a supply line of weapons and ammunition to their strongholds.

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The report speaks of positive signs of the arms surrender campaign by the rebels though officials in parts of Chechnya including Shelkovo district refuse to give up weapons unless there is an order from Grozzyy or Russian troops take control of their places.

"Despite the shortage of weapons, hardware and military experts (mostly, to man tanks or rocket launchers), members of the illegal armed formations have no intention of giving up their weapons and prepare for further resistance", runs the report.

There are indications of concentration of rebel forces in Novo-Promyslovskiy region of Groznyy and of five units of armor being moved to the compounds of a former Russian army base.

"Disguised as refugees, members of the pro-Dudayev sabotage groups are seeking to leave Chechnya. They have a long-range priority of contacting extremist groups in other regional republics with an aim of forming armed groups and detachments there", says the report.

It speaks of armed formations now concentrating at Nojay-Yurt where a new stronghold is being set up by the rebels.

Duma Forms Chechnya Investigation Group

LD1401100495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0743 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 14 (TASS)—A commission to investigate into reasons for the Chechen crisis was formed by the Russian State Duma on Friday.

The commission includes 11 parliament members, representatives of all factions and some deputy groups, and is headed by chairman of the Duma Committee for Security Viktor Ilyukhin.

The State Duma adopted a resolution on Friday urging President Boris Yeltsin and the government "to take comprehensive measures to stop combat actions on the territory of Chechnya and create conditions for a political settlement of the conflict."

The Duma suggested that the president set up a state commission to investigate and give the legal assessment to "actions of officials which have resulted in deaths and distructions in the northern Caucasus."

Deputies stated that the Constitution of the Russian Federation should be ammended so that the control functions of the parliament are broadened.

The bill to ban military actions of Russian armed forces on the territory of the Russian Federation, tabled by the "Russia's Choice" faction, was turned down on Friday by the lower house of the Russian parliament. The document was debated during a plenary meeting of the state duma which discussed the situation in Chechnya.

The rejected bill stipulated, specifically, that "no military actions of the Russian armed forces are permissible on the territory of the Russian Federation except in case in case of an aggression or a direct threat of aggression.

Only 103 deputies voted for prohibition to use the money for combat operations on Russian territory with large-scale artillery and rocket shelling and bombing of populated localities and cities without the introduction of the martial law or the state of emergency.

A draft law "On Publishing of Information About Servicemen Killed, Wounded and MIA During Active Military Service" was rejected by the State Duma on Friday.

The draft was submitted to the Duma by the Choice of Russia faction as part of discussion on Chechen situation.

The drafter believes that commanders of military units, ministries and departments must send information on servicemen killed, wounded and MIA during active military service to the ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA for publishing in order to ensure the constitutional right to information.

An amendment introduced on Friday to the Russian law "On Defence" dwells on the use of the Russian armed forces in tasks not related to their destination.

A federal law adopted by the State Duma says that "the use of the Russian armed forces in tasks not related to their destination shall be done only on the basis of a decree of the Russian president approved by the Federation Council of the Russian Federal assembly. In case of a need for additional budget allocations, this shall be done on the basis of a federal law of the Russian Federation."

The State Duma has refrained from discussing Army reform problems. On Friday, the lower house turned down a proposal coming from Communists to put on its agenda an item on changes to the structural hierarchy in the armed forces.

Speaker Ivan Rybkin, who is a permanent member of the Federal Security Council, explained that President Boris Yeltsin had instructed Premier Victor Chernomyrdin and Security Council Chairman Oleg Lobov to formulate proposals for Army reform. "It is a matter of proposals so far," he said.

The Russian State Duma ratified a treaty of friendly relations and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Hungarian Republic on Friday. The treaty was signed on December 6, 1991, but the former Supreme Soviet did not ratify it.

The State Duma also ratified a treaty of friendly relations between the Russian Federation and Vietnam.

An approximate lawmaking programme for 1995 was today approved by the State Duma. It plans to discuss 438 bills this year. Some of them are expected to be adopted only in 1996.

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The programme gives priority attention to the law on the 1995 federal budget, to the land and water codes.

Moreover, the MPs [member's of parliament] plan to amend and supplement six legislative acts, regulating taxation in the country, which is tantamount to a reform of the tax legislation.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] parliamentary faction, indignantly rejected the attempt of a lawyer of Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, to present him with a subpoena summoning him to the court on January 31 in connection with a lawsuit brought against him for insulting Stepashin's dignity and honour.

Zhirinovskiy, trained as a jurist, motivated his rejection of the subpoena by stating it should be delivered at a respondent's home address.

Zhirinovskiy's talk with Stepashin's lawyer was a noisy scene.

It can be recalled that Stepashin sued Zhirinovskiy for calling him "an agent of the CIA and the Mossad" when speaking in the State Duma.

Kovalev Views Constitutional Rights in Chechnya

LD1401173295 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1535 GMT 13 Jan 95

[From the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] As has already been reported, a news conference by Russia's Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev took place in Moscow today. He also is chairman of the temporary commission for supervision of the constitutional rights of Chechnya's citizens.

Mayak correspondent Anatoliy Fedorov reports:

[Fedorov] The situation in Chechnya and Groznyy is fully controlled by the federal forces of the army and the Internal Affairs Ministry, except for two or three sites in the town, including the presidential palace where Dudayev's militants have ensconced themselves. At night sporadic shooting can still be heard. Local self-government bodies are being set up. Salambek Khadzhiyev's government of national renewal is operating.

On the whole the army is operating competently and professionally, although the commission has singled out three instances in which a few top army commanders caused combat subunits to lose their bearings which resulted in increased losses of personnel. And this is already the subject of criminal proceedings, Valentin Kovalev told the news conference.

Have there been instances of mass violations of citizens' rights in Chechnya?

[Begin recording] [Kovalev] We are trying to register all violations of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms, whomsoever they emanate from. There have not been any mass violations of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms by federal troops. There are individual instances which we are examining and to which we shall attach legal and, perhaps, criminal law significance, too. Potentially dangerous sites - oil wells, chemical reactors and oil refineries - are the subject of special concern of the command, and to a certain extent also of our temporary commission for the supervision of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms. We are specially keeping track of the protection system of these enterprises inasmuch as it is perfectly obvious that insufficiently reliable protection could result in an ecological disaster.

A report to the effect that the illegal armed units are using chemical reagents as poisonous substances has reached our commission. The commission has studied this situation very thoroughly. After enlisting experts, it has reached the conclusion that reliable facts on the use of such chemical reagents as weapons do not exist. It is in particular typical of this very complicated situation that up until today several thousands of criminals, that is to say, those individuals who are on the all-Russian wanted list, are operating in the illegal armed units. There are data to the effect that in Chechnya not simply ordinary criminals were released from the prisons but also criminals sentenced to death.

Now a few words in connection with the possible methods of resolving the conflict. We are of course, in favor of peaceful methods of such a solution. But we have gone past the point of no return. The Chechen armed units are not agreeing to talks. They do not accept our conditions and they are putting forward conditions of their own which are completely unacceptable. I think that the main attention needs to be focused on resolving socio-economic questions. Most of the population is tired of this confrontation. Everyone is thirsting for peace. For this reason, as the life support system is restored in the republic, the situation will undoubtedly return to normal.

[Fedorov] Valentin Kovalev and, together with him, Aleksey Ilyushenko and Viktor Yerin are engaged in restoring the law enforcement system in Chechnya. On the basis of what criteria?

[Kovalev] No loyalty check is intended. What we have in mind is something else: the relevant posts in the law-enforcement bodies will be held by persons dedicated to the cause of the restoration of constitutional legality on the territory of the Chechen republic, and, second, who enjoy the trust of the local population. [end recording]

[Announcer] And I can add that Salambek Khadzhiyev's government of national renewal has proposed that each instance of the use of combat weapons in inhabitated localities should be agreed upon with them, that is to say, with members of the government.

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Chechnya Protests Take Place in St. Petersburg

LD1501171395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Jan 15 (Interfax)—A meeting of St. Petersburg's democratic forces which was held near the Kazanskiy Cathedral on Sunday adopted a resolution which announced the Chechen war an anti-constitutional one and expressed demands to stop sending servicemen from St. Petersburg to Chechnya.

According to law enforcement bodies' estimates, the meeting has gathered about 2000 people. About one thousand representatives of communist organizations gathered in the same place in order to hold their action of protest against bloodshed in Chechnya. They agreed to leave the square in front of the cathedral after some contradictions and went along the Nevskiy avenue with a march of protest chanting "All Power to Councils!"

The same day a 100-strong meeting was held on Dvortsovaya square. Representatives of the National Republican Party of Russia, LDPR, Russian Popular Union, and Russian Party participated in this meeting. The action was held under the slogans: "Russian Army - People with you!", "Let's Cleanse the Land from the Dudayev Scum!", "Russia above Everything!"

Addressing the meeting, member of the Russian Party Vladimir Barabash said: "The Chechen events, as well as the October, 1993 events, have been planned by a secret Zionist center to exterminate Russian people."

Moscow Opposes CSCE Chechnya Mission

LD1601120495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—Moscow believes that at this stage that sending any CSCE mission to Chechnya is out of the question.

"At the moment the question of sending to Moscow and later to the Chechen conflict zone a representative or representatives of the acting CSCE chairman is being considered", a high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official told a briefing in Moscow Monday.

He said the Chechen question was at the center of attention of Monday's talks with a personal envoy of the acting CSCE chairman Istvan Gyarmati, Hungary. It was his second visit to the Russian capital in the past two weeks.

According to the Russian diplomat, Moscow supports involving the CSCE at a later stage of peaceful construction in Chechnya.

On the recent decision of the political commission of the Council of Europe to suspend Russia's admission to the organization the diplomat said that this action is not final. At the end of January - beginning of February the problem will be discussed at a regular session of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, so not everything is lost, he said.

The official admitted that in the light of the latest developments the process of Russia's admission will slow down somewhat.

Chernomyrdin Delivers Speech on Chechnya

LD1601174195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 (TASS)—Following is the full text of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's televised address to the nation on Monday, January 16, 1995:

Dear televiewers, Russian citizens,

I am addressing you on instructions from the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

What has been happening in recent weeks and days on the territory of the Chechen Republic cannot leave anyone indifferent. The fate of Russia, of its state integrity, of everything that has been done to consolidate democracy in our country in recent years is being called into question. All sober-minded citizens of our country understand this and view these latest developments as our common tragedy.

Yes, it is a tragedy for the Chechen people who were deceived by false promises and have suffered huge losses because of the meaningless policy of their leaders. It is a tragedy for the whole of Russia whose soldiers, officers and civilians are losing their lives.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my profound grief and condolences to the relatives and other persons close to those who died these tragic days.

I am confident: The future of Russia, our future, depends on the resolution of the crisis in Chechnya. These are not mere words. No state can stand its constitution being trampled in some part of its territory, its laws being ignored, the rights and interests of its citizens being unsecured and their lives being dominated by arbitrariness and violence.

I want to stress once again: We are not waging a war against the Chechen people. Our duty is to help all inhabitants of Chechnya acquire, at long last, a chance for their free political self- determination without pressure on the part of militants and criminals.

The federal government had to use force precisely in order to restore constitutional law and order in that part of the Russian territory.

I do not think it is the right time to make our decision or the way it is being fulfilled a subject for debate. We shall have an opportunity to sort things out and to understand what has happened, to find answers to all questions, and, most importantly, to do everything to prevent things

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from repeating themselves, to make the nightmare of the last three years and the tragedy of the last five weeks become things of the past forever.

I want to say one thing only. It is wrong to blame the Army unthinkingly. The Russian soldier is honourably doing his duty, he has not marred his honour. And no one has the right to speak maliciously and with bile about those who is under fire today. The Army is a component of the state, part of our Russia. And even when we feel anguish for the army, when we feel bitter about its unsettled state, we must view it with respect.

Our main task today is to end bloodshed. A few days ago we already proposed a 48-hour ceasefire. It would have made it possible to pick up the wounded, to bury the dead, and, as they say, look back in anger. The government announced amnesty for those who lay down the arms. And we were ready to extend the effect of our proposal for another 48 hours, and then for more and more days.

The (federal) troops ceased fire unilaterally. But to our deep regret, the illegal armed formations responded to our goodwill move with an ever more fierce growth of their activity. Blood was spilt again.

Nonetheless, we propose to begin negotiations immediately with all the interested parties and forces, first of all, on a moratorium on the movement of troops and military equipment;

- On the termination of the use of artillery, missile-launching equipment and armour, as well as other kinds of heavy armaments in the conflict zone;

- On the creation of zones in which the warring parties will not use force reciprocally. In these zones, the process of turning in and redeeming weapons should begin with guarantees provided by the elders and respected persons.

We shall also have to determine the procedure for storing and guarding the turned-in weapons and for control over their safekeeping.

The beginning of such negotiations should mean ceasefire at the same time.

Secondly, we think it necessary to agree on unhampered delivery to civilians of food, medication, warm clothes, humanitarian aid, and, generally, of things needed to support life.

We hope that this attempt at getting through to the conscience and reason of the leaders of illegal armed formations will meet with an adequate response on their part this time.

Preparations have actually begun for the negotiating process, the arrangement of which was entrusted to me by the president of Russia. I have had meetings with representatives of the Chechen diaspora in Moscow, with religious leaders and members of the business community. I have consulted the leaders of all regions of the northern Caucasus.

A few days ago, the first meeting took place of the public council under the chairman of the government which was founded to facilitate the settlement in Chechnya. This public body comprises renowned scientists, politicians, and cultural figures, in short, people whose authority and influence are recognised both in Moscow and Chechnya.

I have drawn one main conclusion from all these meetings: for all the diversity of opinions, approaches and emotions, all my interlocutors agreed about one thing - we all want peace to come to the land of Chechnya, we all want Russia to be untied and whole.

What must come to the foreground now are broad-based consultations concerning the formation of a capable and responsible government in the Chechen Republic for the transitional period preceding democratic elections there.

In the final account, only the people of the Chechen Republic can solve this problem. Only through the elections will the subject of political dialogue take shape, a subject that will represent the views and the will of the entire Chechen population. Only after that will it be possible to discuss, on a legitimate basis, questions relating to the status of the (Chechen) Republic within the framework of the Russian Federation, and the division of powers between the federal and the republic authorities, as well as many other things.

That's how it will be. But it will take time to heal the wounds, ease the pain, soothe the grief and replace offenses and hatred with wisdom and common sense of a proud people.

It is necessary to restore normal life, create the elementary conditions for people, rebuild the economy and facilitate the return of refugees to their homes.

These are urgent tasks. They can be accomplished only if we take into account the views and the will, the traditions and values of the Chechen people, of all the inhabitants of Chechnya.

Obviously, it is necessary to form a government of the Chechen republic for the transitional period and restore the bodies of local self-government. Who will work in them is to be decided by the people of Chechnya, its plenipotentiary representatives.

Various Chechen representatives suggest resorting for help to the former Supreme Soviet of the republic, which was dissolved by Dudayev and whose mandate has not expired yet.

There have also been other suggestions.

I am ready to discuss these issues with all concerned sides in the next few days.

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Now, I would like to speak about what has been done and what is being done to bring life on the territory of the republic back to normal, restore the economy and what has been destroyed not only and not so much in the past few weeks, but over the last three years of economic hardships and open plunder.

The railway tracks and communications lines have been restored between the Isherskaya and Chervlyonaya-Uzlovaya stations. The section between Chervlyonaya and Gudermes has been cleared of mines. Passenger traffic has resumed between Mozdok and Naurskaya. The railway road is a "road of life" in the real meaning of this word not only for Chechnya, but for the entire Caucasus.

One of the republic's airports has resumed operations. Cargo supplies will begin coming in through the second air bridge within days.

In several districts of Chechnya, senior citizens have at last begun to receive their pensions. A total of 32 medical institutions have been set up in the republic, medicines and medical equipment are being delivered.

Funds have been contributed for the schools and institutes to resume classes.

Chechnya's key industry—oil extraction and oil processing—will also be rebuilt. The first 420 facilities to be restored on a top priority basis have been defined. Work is underway to restore the power line between Vladikavkaz and Chir-Yurt. Rebuilding Groznyy, its devastated houses and communications facilities is also a priority.

Also in store is such a traditionally peaceful task as preparations for a spring sowing campaign. Fodder supplies for the cattle, sheep and poultry are being delivered to the republic.

Over 2,300 tonnes of relief supplies, including over 2,200 tonnes of food and more than 350 prefabricated houses, have been delivered. Assistance is being provided to refugees and displaced persons.

Of course, this work is being hampered by the continuing fighting. Convoys of trucks loaded with food, medicines and basic necessities are standing still. Aid fails to reach those who need it most. This is why every day, every hour of ceasefire is so valuable. This is why we have been insisting on the earliest possible end to the armed conflict. This is why we are seeking a political settlement.

People all across Russia have been asking one and the same question: how will the conflict in Chechnya affect the national economy, won't the country deviate from the policy of reform and won't it give up the economic policy which we have been pursuing lately?.

Let me tell you that there will be no backtracking. In 1995, we will seek to achieve what we have mapped out in our programme. We will not revise the financial process or the privatisation scheme, although some people have already advised us to correct our approaches and become more "realistic."

But in practice the only realistic policy is to achieve, step by step, the government's goals in fighting inflation, encouraging savings and investments, establishing a stock market, stimulating production and business development.

Of course, this will not be easy to achieve. To cope with the aftermath of the Chechen crisis alone, we will need not less than five trillion roubles, provided we begin restoration efforts in the region within days.

But, I repeat again, the strategy of reform will not change in 1995. On the contrary, we will move up the deadlines for resolving several major problems.

The year 1995 should become a year of stabilisation of the Russian economy. So be it. An end to the bloodshed in Chechnya will only bring us closer to this goal.

Chechen Delegation Arrives in Moscow

LD1601203795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agence France Presse reports that a Chechen government delegation, authorized by President Dzhokhar Dudayev to hold talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on a truce, has arrived in Moscow. It is headed by Chechen Economics Minister Taymaz Abubakarov. The delegation, which also includes Procurator General Usman Ismayev, was received by Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray and Aleksandr Mikhaylov, deputy minister for the Nationality Affairs.

Moscow Hotel Incurs Explosion; No Casualties

LD1601044395 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday evening on the second floor of the Metropol Hotel located in the center of Moscow there was an explosion. As INTERFAX agency was told by souces in the capital's militia, an unfixed device was exploded. There are no casualties resulting from the blast and hardly any damage was caused.

Kovalev on Government-Media Conflict

LD1301183995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1800 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—"Russia is witnessing an inadmissible conflict between mass media and the state power bodies," Russian Minister of Justice Valentin Kovalev told an exclusive ITAR-TASS interview today.

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In his opinion, "opinions can differ, but the press should clearly outline the state stand." He thinks this is not done and mass media is showing a one-sided approach in the coverage of Chechen events.

"Information reaching here from Chechnya is one-sided and tendentious. There are no reports from the Russian troops," said Kovalev.

Asked about his reaction to the report of the Russian Federal Counter-intelligence Service about bribery of Russian correspondents by Dudayev agents, the minister said he has not received such information from the Counter-intelligence Service. Several days ago head of the service's Public Relations Center Aleksandr Mikhaylov said that his service has information about publishing of "materials to order" by some Russian media bodies which was done with participation of Chechen Secret Services.

At the same time, Kovalev said "if information about Chechnya published by some mass media bodies was not bought with 'Chechen Money', it is anyway backed up by particular interests".

Proceedings Begin Against 5th TV Channel

LD1301175195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1553 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 ITAR-TASS—An inspection into financial and economic activities of the Petersburg-5th TV Channel State TV and Radio Company has resulted in criminal proceedings instituted by the Russian procurator general's office, sources at the office's Information and Public Relations Center told ITAR-TASS today.

The inspection held by the Russian Ministry of Finance and State Tax Inspectors revealed that Deputy Company Chairman M. Syroyezhkin initiated a transfer of the company's 2 million U.S. dollars to accounts of foreign firms in the United States and Italy. The money was gratuitously taken from the budget of the state organization. Syroyezhkin is now living in the United States.

The Petersburg Interior Department was instructed to hold preliminary investigation.

Zhirinovskiy Tries To Remove TV Rights

LD1301141795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 13 (Interfax)—The leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy proposed Friday that the NTV television company be deprived of its broadcasting rights for "inadequate coverage" of Chechen developments.

Zhirinovskiy's proposal was supported by 111, against 46, votes. To pass, the proposal must have been supported by 226 members of the Russian parliament.

A total of 164 lawmakers supported Zhirinovskiy's call for the deprivation of TV host Nikolay Svanidze of parliamentary accreditation. Zhirinovskiy got angry when Svanidze was named the journalist of 1994.

Zhirinovskiy reminded parliament that the Liberal Democratic faction filed a legal suit against Svanidze. According to Svanidze, the Liberal Democrats were bribed into voting as they did on last year's federal budget.

Acting on a proposal from Vitaliy Savitskiy (Russia's Choice), the State Duma told its security committee to find out whether Sergey Yushenkov and Ella Panfilova had indeed been bribed into saying what they had said on Chechen developments.

Congratulating journalists on the occasion of "the day of the press," lawmaker Mikhail Burlakov asked the media to refrain from "tarring their own people."

'Sources' Claim Goverment Plans TV Controls

LD1301124795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Following the state-run Russian TV channel, the only national independent TV company, the NTV, seems to have become another target for attacks of government officials displeased with TV coverage of Chechen events which they qualify as "one-sided". The Kremlin leaked information that the NTV company is awaiting a reorganisation and that the government wants to become its co-founder.

TASS learned from high-ranking sources in the administration of Boris Yeltsin on Friday that a presidential decree is being prepared to reorganise Channel Four of the Russian Television which is currently used by both the state-run "Russian Universities" company and the private NTV.

The decree reportedly rules that Channel Four would be given completely to private TV companies, but the state would retain the controlling interest of 51 per cent of shares. Besides, the government wants to become a co-founder of the NTV company which is now sponsored by the major financial private "Most-Bank" group.

In case the decree is signed the Russian state-run television will lose the "Russian Universities" company while the NTV will get the government to decide on its personnel policy and the programmes.

If signed the decree will follow an attack on Oleg Poptsov, the chairman of the Russian state-run television who was reportedly sacked for "unobjective" coverage of Chechen developments. The news was broke by Russian Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev who said it was President Yeltsin to tell him about

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Poptsov's dismissal. [as received] However, a presidential decree dismissing Poptsov has not been made public so far. Leaders of the Russian Television believe that the decree will never come out, but the rumours about a possible dismissal of Poptsov will be used as "a sword of Damocles" to keep the TV company obedient.

Presidential First Aide Viktor Ilyushin, contacted by TASS on Friday, refused to either confirm or deny the reports about NTV prospects. However, he admitted that "those who design plans to reorganise Channel Four have all grounds to be displeased with the NTV company which works not if on someone's orders, but protects certain interests". Ilyushin was clearly referring to the "Most- Bank" group.

He also quoted unidentified foreign observers as saying that they like the position of the Russian president regarding the television which they assess as democratic. At the same time, according to Ilyushin, the same observers said that "the press needs a feeling of responsibility" in covering the Chechen developments.

The NTV is regarded by most Russians as the only company which provides the most objective and full information on the Chechen crisis. It permanently keeps from three to five correspondents in the conflict area who daily report on the latest developments in Groznyy.

Ilyushin was echoed by Valeriy Grishin, who currently heads the government press centre responsible for official Chechen coverage. Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev described the government propaganda of Chechen events as "lies".

Grishin told TASS on Friday that the government commission responsible for Chechen coverage, which has been since recently headed by Deputy Premier Sergey Shakhray, has nothing to do with the NTV reorganisation plans.

But he was categoric in assessing the TV coverage of Chechen events as "one-sided". "Only five per cent of all many-hour video materials which I sent to Moscow from Mozdok before new year were aired on all TV channels", Grishin complained. Mozdok is the North Ossetian city on Chechen border where the Russian military operation is orchestrated.

Another high-ranking official to criticise the NTV coverage of Chechen developments was First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets who even threatened to strip it of the license.

Anyway, the quoted viewpoints make it clear that hard times await the NTV.

Filatov Cites Yeltsin on TV Reorganization

LD1601180995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin supports no new initiatives to reorganize or merge the existing television broadcasting companies, the head of the presidential administration, Sergey Filatov, told Interfax correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov referring to his today's meeting with the president. Filatov remarked that Yeltsin emphasized "the need to finally give the mass media possibility to work normally."

The meeting focused on the implementation of December 1993 decrees to create the Independent Television (Russian acronym NTV), the joint-stock company Ostankino, etc. Yeltsin said the decrees were not entirely fulfilled, Filatov noted. In his opinion, this explains "the appearance of certain papers proposing reorganization in the mass media in various bodies, not connected with the presidential administration." He said such projects "created rumors and caused mistrust in the president" even before reaching him. Moreover, some media and individual politicians resort to the old trick—"looking for an enemy," Filatov said.

Filatov stressed that the Chechnya events "tried our capability to preserve democracy." "It seemed to some that the media distorted the meaning of the developments, while it appeared to others that they proclaimed war to the authorities," he added. Filatov remarked that "an intention to return to the unitary approach to the press and television can be palpated in some circles, but it cannot be but understood that this will undermine confidence in the new Russia." "We have to endure everything, make the right conclusions and look for civilized ways for settling all complicated issues," he said.

Military & Space Issues

Deputies Discuss Army Reorganization

MK1301113695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Petr Zhuravlev under the "Response" rubric: "The Idea of Placing General Staff Under the President 'Is Being Worked On.' Duma Military Predict Emergence of Civilian Defense Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko was a bit hasty announcing yesterday that the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff is to be subordinated directly to the country's president as something that was signed, sealed, and delivered. According to a presidential aide, the head of state has at this stage only directed that this idea "be thoroughly worked on," and that reactions to the idea from the military chiefs "has of course been sharply negative." According to another presidential aide, another idea under consideration currently is not only to resubordinate the General Staff but also to reorganize it and create a structure similar to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the United States.

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Sergey Yushenkov ("Russia's Choice" faction), head of the State Duma Defense Committee, stated, as he commented in yesterday's news conference on the idea of new subordination for the General Staff, that "certainly, all the functions of day-to-day troop control should be concentrated in the General Staff, and its chief should have direct access to the commander-in-chief." Mr. Yushenkov thinks that should the idea be put into effect, "this will bring us closer to having a civilian Defense Ministry making mainly political decisions."

According to the deputy, however, one should in this case first of all pay attention to the motives for a possible decision to go ahead and implement this idea. "I fear," he said, "that this may be dictated by the desire to get Pavel Grachev out of danger and shift the entire blame for the failures in Chechnya onto the General Staff." However, Mr. Yushenkov also remarked, another interpretation is also quite plausible—the Kremlin wants "to protect the army against stupid orders of an incompetent minister."

In his turn, Major General Nikolay Stolyarov, member of the "New Regional Policy" deputy group, yesterday described the General Staff resubordination idea as "a quite sensible step toward what many now think is necessary: civilian control of the armed forces." In Mr. Stolyarov's assessment, "subordinated to the president, the General Staff would be in charge of the questions of strategic planning, combat training, and army logistic support and would perform its tasks with maximum efficiency." "As for the Defense Ministry as a whole," the deputy stressed, "this is primarily a political question, and there should be a political figure at the top of this most important power structure." On the other hand, Mr. Stolyarov thinks, resubordination by itself is not going to accomplish anything—"the entire system of troop command and control should be restructured" so as to make it exceptionally rigidly centralized.

Officers Explain 'Differences' With Grachev

MM1301123095 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 2

[Unattributed untitled column featuring comments by four military leaders]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Differences Between Minister and His Deputies

Colonel General Boris Gromov, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, makes no secret of the fact that there have recently been "increased differences between the defense minister and his deputies":

"Following Pavel Grachev's appointment as minister we initially managed to suggest correct decisions to him in complex situations. Valeriy Mironov, Georgiy Kondratyev, and I have considerable service experience, including combat experience in the Afghan war.

"Over time he has virtually excluded us from his circle and has started to listen more to aides whose careers amount to just a few months' service in the central apparatus. Many of them, regrettably, are highly unprofessional.

"The situation has also been compounded by the fact that highly important problems for the Armed Forces—such as organizational development, structural transformations, and cadre policy—have been made by Pavel Grachev without any discussion by the Defense Ministry Collegium.

"But the main problem underlying our differences is the use of the Army to resolve domestic political problems. This happened in October 1993 and is being repeated today in Chechnya. I am sure that there is no justification for using the Armed Forces there."

For the First Time I Have Failed to Follow a Superior's Orders

Colonel General Eduard Vorobev, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Ground Forces, "resigned after being asked by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to head the operation to disarm the bandit formations in Chechnya." Commenting on his decision, he said:

"I very much love the Army, I have devoted 38 years of my life to it. For the first time in my career I failed to carry out my superior's orders by refusing the post offered to me, and I believe that I no longer have the right to remain in the position I hold or to be in command of men....

"My personal career is not so important now; we need to save Russia and get out of the situation which has emerged in the country, in Chechnya, and in the Armed Forces."

Fellow-Serviceman Mocking Us Artfully

Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, assessed the proposal to open the deputy ministerial vacancy to competition as an artful insult:

"We fought together in Afghanistan. Boris Gromov was the commander of the 40th Army and I was his deputy. Pavel Grachev was our subordinate—he commanded a division. What will happen now—are we supposed to compete with each other for the vacancy?"

Resignation "In Protest"

Major General Boris Polyakov, commander of the Kantemir Tank Division, has submitted his resignation "as a protest against the use of his subordinates in combat operations in Chechnya." He said the following about his decision:

"I am issuing no press statements. Politics is not my business. As for me, I only make a decision once."

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Gromov Works Despite Leave Order

LD1401095995 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has become known to the Moscow Echo radio station that Russian Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov is on leave, according to the order by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. A similar order has been signed regarding another deputy of Grachev, Valeriy Mironov.

However, a Moscow Echo correspondent has been told at Gromov's apparatus that he remains at his working place and is not going on any leave.

Court-Martial Threats Cause Army 'Discontent'

MK1701083095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Yevgeniy Krasnikov under the "Power" rubric with general heading: "General Prosecutor's Office Comes to Grips With Military's Case. Generals May Go on Trial for Carrying Out Presidential Order Too Zealously"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent statement by Sergey Nosovets, chief of the president's Information Analysis Administration, that Aleksey Ilyushenko, acting Russian Federation general prosecutor, "is dealing with top officials of the Armed Forces who refused one way or another to carry out orders" they received during the military operation in Chechnya, has proved only one thing: discontent in the army (including among the top brass) has reached a critical point.

The Chechen operation has indeed aroused a high tide of criticism unprecedented for the military. Top army officers (from a deputy defense minister to a division commander) have openly criticized their leadership for violent methods of solving the Chechen crisis, have resigned in protest, or refused to carry out orders without a prior confirmation in writing. And this is only the tip of the iceberg.

There are weighty reasons to suggest that in the army's rank-and- file the current discontent may manifest itself in much tougher forms. Suffice it to recall a threat by an army officer in a televised interview that was heard throughout Russia to avenge himself for the death of his friend not only on Chechen fighters, but also on Moscow politicians! Of course, in this situation the authorities' attempts somehow to stop the ferment in the Armed Forces are fully understandable and in principle justified. However, the ham-handed methods chosen by the current authorities to achieve a laudable aim, to all appearances, will only cause a further heightening of tensions.

Possible actions by the authorities—be it empty threats and inconclusive investigations or (which still seems highly improbable) a large-scale trial to punish "refuseniks" from among officers—are unlikely to pacify the Armed Forces, given a widespread discontent and a fairly low authority of the defense minister and the supreme commander in chief. On the contrary, with the court- martial threat looming large over them, many "top officials of the Armed Forces" will have nothing to lose. And then the threat that developments in Russia will start evolving according to the "Brumaire scenario [when the military came to power during the French Revolution]" will prove not only possible, but also logical.

Space Official Sees NASA Plan 'Unacceptable'

LD1301142895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Jan 13 (INTERFAX)— A senior Russian space industry official says that the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) proposes unacceptable terms within the framework of the Alpha project to build an international orbiting space station. Anatoliy Kiselyov, General Director of the Khrunichev State Space Research and Industrial Center (the United States' main Russian partner in the project), has said that NASA's terms for financing the work to develop and build the cargo module for the Alpha station are utterly unrealistic and Russian air and space firms cannot agree to them.

Speaking in an interview Kiselyov said the real costs of building the functional cargo module would be 40-50 percent higher than American estimates.

Kiselyov said the state space center estimated the real minimum cost at $220 million. If the module was to be built in the United States, the cost would be over $1 billion.

The cargo module will be the first component of a future space station and is going to be launched in November 1997. It will serve as the basis on which to build a future space complex.

The Khrunichev aerospace firm cooperates with Lockheed, one of the world's biggest manufacturers of air and space technologies. The Lockheed company on the 15th of last October extended to the Khrunichev center about $17 million to let it begin the first phase of developing the module for the Alpha station at once and ensure that it should be ready on time.

Both Russian and American manufacturers involved in the Alpha project are financed by the Russian Space Agency [RSA] and NASA.

Earlier, in June 1994, RSA and NASA signed a $440 million contract to finance missions by US and Russian astronauts aboard the orbital complex MIR as part of preparations for missions on a future Alpha station.

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Federal Assembly

Federation Council Invites Yeltsin To Discuss Chechnya

LD1701101695 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0952 GMT 17 Jan 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At today's sitting, deputies of Russia's Federation Council adopted a decision to invite the Russian president, the prime minister, the secretary of the Security Council, the three power ministers, and the acting procurator-general to debate the situation in Chechnya. [passage omitted]

After lengthy debate, the motion submitted by the Federation Council Security and Defense Committee, on dismissing Vladimir Shumeyko from the post of chairman of the chamber because of his stance on the Chechnya problem, was also put on the agenda.

State Duma Speaker on Chechen Situation

LD1401191695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1859 GMT 14 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—The Chechen situation has proved we are defenseless in the face of an armed revolt against the state, Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin told a meeting with the theme "question—direct answer" at the Central House of Cinematographers in Moscow today.

"Neither our Constitution nor the Russian laws have a notion of 'armed revolt', while the U.S. Constitution has a clear provision about it," stressed Rybkin.

There is plenty of highly professional-mercenaries from various states in Groznyy and their work is being paid for with petrodollars, said the speaker. Companies of the Russian Army in Groznyy are often commanded by sergeants-major since the mercenaries kill officers first.

A female unit from the Baltics, the so-called white tights, is acting in Chechnya. Their daily fee is 1,000 U.S. dollars plus 1,500 for each Russian officer they kill, said Rybkin.

He lamented that "we have lost special units of Vityaz, Vympel and Alfa, which were 'instruments of the state' and could have played a big role in Chechnya in the current situation".

Duma Forms Commission To Probe Origins of Chechen Crisis

LD1301142095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1343 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliament correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Jan—The State Duma today formed a commission to investigate the reasons and circumstances which led to the crisis in the Chechen Republic. Eleven deputies—representatives of all Duma factions and certain other groups of deputies—have been nominated to it. The commission is headed by Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Duma committee on security.

The lower house also approved the commission's brief. It has been instructed to "gather and analyze evidence connected with flagrant violations of Russian legislation, which led to the crisis in the Chechen Republic."

Duma Passes 'Guarantees' for Servicemen in Chechnya

LD1301201695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 13 (Interfax)—The State Duma approved a law on more guarantees and compensations to servicemen carrying out their duty within the context of the armed conflict in Chechnya today. Total of 280 parliamentarians voted for the law.

The federal law on more guarantees and compensations to servicemen serving in the Caucasus, Baltic states and Tajikistan and restoring constitutional rights of citizens within the context of emergency situations will also be applied to Russian servicemen fighting in Chechnya.

The law will be considered as if it came into effect on November 26, 1994, when the offensive on Groznyy launched by the Chechen opposition and involving Russian servicemen failed.

The law was submitted for approval by the Federation Council.

Duma Will Not Pass Budget Unless Chechen Costs Specified

LD1601112695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—Chairman of the Duma Budget Committee Mikhail Zadornov told ITAR-TASS today that his committee won't consider the main parameters of the draft federal budget for 1995 unless the government specifies the total cost of the Chechen operation and its aftermath.

Zadornov said the Duma Council wanted the lower house of the Russian federal legislature to debate the draft budget in second reading on Friday but he had doubts as to whether the government will be able to come up with the "Chechen corrections" by January 20.

Mikhail Zadornov noted that since the house passed the draft federal budget in first reading, the Duma budget

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committee has received more than 60 notes from the government, deputies and the legislatures of the component parts of the federation. The committee will discuss all of them at its next meeting.

In addition, the committee will consider two lawbills containing amendments to the laws on profit tax and added value.

"These amendments will lay down in law what was achieved in the course of work of the conciliatory commission but was not reflected in laws. We must approve them at the same time as the updated parameters of the federal budget," he said.

Shumeyko Denies Yeltsin To Disband State Duma

LD1601202395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There are persistent rumors circulating in the Duma, saying that the president may disband the lower chamber of parliament and that he might announce this on 2 February. Vladimir Shumeyko, the head of the upper chamber of parliament—the Federation Council—said in an exclusive interview with our television company today that this would be simply impossible.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] The State Duma cannot possibly be disbanded. I repeat: The State Duma cannot possibly be disbanded, if only because it would be an enormous loss for the democratic and lawful state that has been declared. If the Duma is now disbanded, this would to all intents and purposes mean waving goodbye to Russian parliamentarism for good. [end recording]

State Duma To Debate Constitutional Amendments Bill

LD1301165995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 13 (INTERFAX)—A bill to amend Russia's Constitution and thereby give the legislative branch more control over the executive branch was submitted in the State Duma Friday by Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the parliament's Legislation Committee. In his opinion, the current Constitution envisages "a cynically complex and virtually infeasible procedure to impeach the president and an exceedingly easy procedure for the president to dissolve the State Duma." For this reason, a constitutional clause is suggested which would let the president dissolve the State Duma only if an appropriate Constitutional Court conclusion is available.

In keeping with the constitution, the president appoints the prime minister with the Duma's consent. Parliamentarians want this procedure to be extended to deputy premiers, foreign, defense, and interior ministers, Federal Counterintelligence and Foreign Intelligence Services.

Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee, suggested that the Constitution be supplemented with a clause entitling both houses of the Federal Assembly to control the president and the federal bodies of executive power.

Boris Zolotukhin, deputy chairman of the Russia's Choice faction, proposed an amendment giving parliament's houses the right to form special parliamentary commissions to investigate key issues. It is also suggested that the right of the Federal Assembly's houses to hold joint sessions as they please be constitutionally guaranteed. So far only the president has been entitled to convene such sessions.

The State Duma has begun to debate these and some other constitutional amendments. The bill on constitutional amendments is subject to presidential signature if it is approved by two thirds of the State Duma and Federation Council deputies and by two thirds of legislatures in the territories of the Russian Federation.

Rybkin on Chechen Mercenary Units; Security Phone Tapping

LD1501144395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 15 (INTERFAX)—The chairman of the Russian parliament's lower house, Ivan Rybkin, said the government had "found itself powerless in a situation the name of which is armed revolt."

Russian soldiers "are stubbornly doing their duty" in Chechnya," Rybkin said on Saturday during a Direct Question, Direct Answer meeting at Moscow's Cinematographers' House.

Chechen forces include "enormous numbers of professional mercenaries from various countries, hired for big money," the parliamentary chairman said. Among the mercenaries are snipers, including a women's unit from Baltic countries, who are paid "1,000 dollars a day plus 1,500 for each killed serviceman." The snipers "mainly liquidate officers," so "quite often Russian companies and battalions are commanded by sergeants."

"Federal authority should have reacted to the situation in Chechnya three years ago," Rybkin continued. While the former Russian parliament condemned "the coup which took place in the Chechen Republic in autumn 1991 and resulted in the forcible dissolution of its Supreme Soviet (legislature)," the then chairman of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, congratulated his native republic on "a victorious Chechen revolution," Rybkin said.

He deplored "the thoughtless and absurd loss of such special combat units as Vympel, Alpha and Vityaz." Asked whether it was true that the Kremlin security services tapped everyone's, even Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's, telephone calls, (something asserted,

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among others, by Vladimir Kvasov, a member of parliament and former head of the government's auxiliary staff), Rybkin said that "those telephone calls are tapped which need to be tapped" and that that is done by "those whose duties include it." But "it must only be done to the extent allowed by the law" - "security services must not exceed their powers," he added.

Federation Council Committee Drafts Statement on Chechnya

LD1301170295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 13 (INTERFAX)--The International Affairs Committee of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament, has drafted a statement which calls for:

1. Imposition of a state of emergency in Chechnya in a procedure provided for by the Russian Constitution and federal legislation.

2. Cessation of offensive operations and immediate start of talks with Chechen leaders on ending the hostilities and normalization of the situation. Further use of armed forces and formation of "force structures" in strict compliance with the emergency rule.

These steps are essential, the draft says, because continuation of hostilities is becoming pointless and dangerous. The document argues that a civil war is becoming the reality and that war against the Dudayev regime is becoming a war of the federal authorities on the armed Chechen people.

The authors of the draft argue that, under the pretext of curbing Russia's aggression, the nationalists in CIS member nations are stepping up their activities aimed at having the Commonwealth collapse while the probability of a new confrontation of blocs is increasing as NATO expands into Central and Eastern Europe.

They believe that the existing situation was made possible by the imperfect mechanism of making military political decisions which does not allow for analysis of various scenarios and their consequences and absence of a mechanism which would enable those responsible for triggering and continuing a civil war on Russian soil to be brought to justice.

ITAR-TASS Details Amendment to Law on Armed Forces

LD1301164995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1611 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—An amendment introduced today to the Russian law "On Defence" dwells on the use of the Russian armed forces in tasks not related to their destination.

A federal law adopted by the State Duma says that "the use of the Russian armed forces in tasks not related to their destination shall be done only on the basis of a decree of the Russian president approved by the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly. In case of a need for additional budget allocations, this shall be done on the basis of a federal law of the Russian Federation".

The amendment was introduced in response to the use of Russian army units in the Chechen conflict.

Regional Affairs

Russian Troops Seize Chechen Council of Ministers Building

LD1301183095 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, Russian troops took complete possession of the Chechen Council of Ministers building in Groznyy, a Russian Defense Ministry official spokesman told INTERFAX. He said the Council of Ministers' building is a key facility in Dudayev's defense system in the center of Groznyy. After taking the council of ministers building, the Federal troops are almost in complete control of the town's central square, where the presidential palace is also situated. Moreover, Federal troops have blockaded the buildings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Security department of Chechnya, in which individual groups of combatants are continuing to put up resistance.

Yegorov, Stepashin Meet Local Elders on Chechnya Status

LD1301201295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Jan 13 (Interfax)—Chechnya has been, is, and will be an integral part of the Russian Federation and the federal authorities will promote comprehensive development of the Chechen republic as Russia's integral part, declared Nikolay Yegorov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president in the Chechen republic. On Friday in Urus-Martan, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergey Stepashin and he met with the elders and representatives of the religious authorities in the Urus-Martan and Shali regions.

In Yegorov's words, the department of the Russian Federation federal bodies has already started paying wages in Chechnya, started to restore enterprises, railways, and other communications, to supply food products and medicines to Chechnya.

Interfax has learned that acting attorney general of the Russian Federation Aleksey Ilyushenko appointed Bek

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Baskhanov to the post of Chechnya's attorney general, Baskhanov has started his work with restoration of law enforcement bodies.

Representatives of the Shali region in which the bandit formations still act, asked Yegorov and Stepashin to prevent possible shelling of the region's populated centers. Yegorov and Stepashin put forward counter-demands, namely to use the elders' influence in order to speed up the process of weapons surrender by illegal armed formations and to assist in liberation of 24 Russian paratroopers who are kept in prison in the populated centers near the city of Shali.

In general Yegorov has highly appreciated this meeting. He pointed out that "in contrast to Chechnya's former leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, local leaders and elders of the Chechen republic strive for peace, normal life, and, it means, that they are ready for a businesslike constructive talk on all current issues, beginning with disarmament and ending with development of federal programs to restore economy of the Chechen republic and participation in them."

Meanwhile, a meeting which gathered 4000 local citizens and refugees who came from the conflict zone was held on Friday in Urus- Martan. In their address to the federal leaders, who came to Urus- Martan, and to the chairman of Chechnya's Provisional Council Umar Avturkhanov they demanded to stop military operations against Dudayev's formations as soon as possible and "to institute criminal proceedings against State Duma deputies Yushenkov, Panfilova, Yakunin, and Sergey Kovalyov accusing them of protection and patronage of the regime of organized crime in Chechnya.

Russians Forces Reportedly Take Dudayev's Palace

LD1401011795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0100 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past day Russian forces continued intensive shelling of Groznyy. According to some information, by the evening they managed to take the president's palace.

Fighting Reported Inside Palace

LD1401165495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] And now let me remind you of the main events of the day. At this very hour fighting is going on inside the presidential palace in Groznyy. [passage omitted]

Fighting Continues; Ministry Building Taken

LD1501101095 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a spokesman for the command of the Russian armed forces in Chechnya, the Council of Ministers building in Groznyy, which is located just a few meters from the presidential palace, has been taken under control. We also have unconfirmed reports from independent sources in Groznyy saying that a battle is being waged within the palace. At present Russian artillery fire is concentrated on the central part of the city. The powerful explosions accompanying the shelling testify that the Russian Army has used ground-to-ground missiles with multiple warheads. Fierce fighting is also taking place in the immediate vicinity of the railway station and next to the buildings of the Chechen internal affairs and security ministries.

Russian Troops Trying To Block Retreat Routes From Groznyy

LD1501230595 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2152 GMT 15 Jan 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Presenter Sergey Shatunov] Through Sunday the federal troops continued operations with the aim of taking the central parts of Groznyy. The internal troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] tried during the past day to block the main retreat routes of Dudayev's supporters from the Chechen capital.

Besides this, the troops conducted operations to block the administrative borders of Chechnya with other North Caucasian republics with the aim of eliminating the flow of mercenaries and arms to the conflict zone and out of it. According to information from the Russian government's press service, self-defense detachments not controlled by the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime are being set up in a number of populated localities in Chechnya. [Video shows helicopters in flight, military vehicles, soldiers, guns, machine guns, armored vehicles]

Presidential Palace Surrounded; Groznyy Sealed Off

LD1501221495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 2200 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal authorities have completely surrounded the presidential palace in Groznyy, a representative of the Russian Defense Ministry has said. In addition, according to him, the whole town has been sealed off, including its southern sector. We have not been able to confirm this information from other sources so far.

Stepashin: Chechens Control Palace, Fight Off Attacks

LD1601032895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0300 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Stepashin, head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service who visited Groznyy yesterday, told INTERFAX that only some of the city's blocks were occupied by federal forces. The

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presidential palace was still in the hands of Chechen fighters. All attempts to take it by storm were turning out to be unsuccessful. The attackers are met by massed intense fire, Sergey Stepashin admitted.

Reports on Situation in Groznyy

LD1601120195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow. January 15. (INTERFAX)—Sergey Stepashin, Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, conferred with General Rokhlin, commander of the 8 corps of the Western Group, in Groznyy Sunday [15 January]. As he has told an Interfax correspondent in the city, the main task now is to get hold of Groznyy's center. According to him, federal authorities already control the capital's suburbs, and Chechnya's National Rebirth Government will help to set up interior bodies to maintain public order in suburbans areas.

In Staraya Sunzha, a Groznyy's suburb, the population has volunteered for anti-Dudayev militia units.

Military sources have reported to Interfax that fierce battles for the presidential palace continued in Groznyy on Sunday. However, so far federal troops have failed to get in. By eyewitness accounts, "the attackers are being met with mass barrage."

Meanwhile, according to intelligence data, the militants have been running heavy casualties and have been experiencing the shortage of men and ammunition. Teenagers have arrived in Groznyy by two trucks and have been armed upon their arrival.

Militants have repeatedly tried to counter attack to recapture the Council of Ministers building, occupied by government troops, however all the attacks have been repulsed.

The newly arrived marines have reinforced the paratroopers and motorized infantry units, storming the palace. According to 8 corps officers, the bitterness of fighting is borne out by the fact that there virtually are no officers left at the level of a company and a platoon in the Russian forces. For instance, in the 81 regiment from Chernorechensk, the Volga Military District, there are only one officer and 10 soldiers left in one battalion after battles since early this month. This confirms that there are mercenaries from CIS and other countries fighting on the militants side. In the course of fighting in Groznyy's down town, motorized riflemen suppressed the firing position of a woman sniper, identified, according documents found at her emplacement, as a citizen of Belarus.

German Paper: Dudayev Threatens To Bomb Moscow

LD1501062295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0611 GMT 15 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn January 15 TASS—Dzhokhar Dudayev threatens Moscow with bombing. According to excerpts from Dudayev's telephone interview biamed via satellite and circulated by the newspaper BILD AM SONNTAG on Sunday, he stated literally the following: "Moscow should not feel completely safe. We can also do what a young German air pilot made several years ago—to land in the Red Square. We know the terrain better. We also can bomb. We shall fight till the last drop of blood—this is how the god wills."

According to the newspaper, Dudayev maintains that he ostensibly has available the necessary means to delivery a strike against Moscow.

Evidence Found of Dudayev Threats

LD1501110795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0656 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn January 15 TASS—Dzhokhar Dudayev threatens Moscow with bombing. According to excerpts from Dudayev's telephone interview beamed via satellite and circulated by the newspaper BILD AM SONNTAG on Sunday, he stated literally the following: "Moscow should not feel completely safe. We can also do what a young German air pilot made several years ago—to land in the Red Square. We know the terrain better. We also can bomb. We shall fight till the last drop of blood—this is how the God wills."

According to the newspaper, Dudayev maintains that he ostensibly has available the necessary means to deliver a strike against Moscow.

It must be recalled that, as Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Moscow recently, an evidence was found that Dudayev, using a foreign communications channel, tried to request bombers from Turkey for strikes against Moscow.

It was also established that Dudayev was busy working out plans for acts of sabotage at Russia's nuclear power stations. The documentarian evidence, Shakhray said, are to be presented to the general public in a television film the making of which is being finalised.

Threat Dismissed as 'Bluff'

LD1501114995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 15 (TASS)—A Russian Defence Ministry spokesman, in an ITAR-TASS interview on Sunday, dismissed as "bluff" Dzhokar Dudayev statement, published in the Sunday edition of the German newspaper BILD AM SONNTAG, about possible bombing raids against Moscow.

The unlawful armed formations in Chechnya do not have the slightest possibility to launch any bombing raids wahtsoever: The Dudayev forces' aircraft (of which

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there were several tens), which were converted into bombers, were destroyed by federal military aviation way back in December last year, the spokesman said.

The Khantala airfield near Groznyy and other airfields in Chechnya are now being controlled by Federal troops, the spokesman added.

There are no grounds to fear that Dudayev's fighters may seize any military aircraft or win over some of pilots to their side. This is basically ruled out, the Defence Ministry spokesman emphasised.

Ingush Official Skeptical of Threat

LD1501170695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Jan 15 (INTERFAX)—Fighting between split units of Dudayev supporters and federal troops which are tightening the ring round the presidential palace in the center of the city, continued in Groznyy on Sunday, said Russian military sources in Nazran (Ingushetia).

Meanwhile, in an interview with Interfax, Vice-President of the Ingush Republic, Boris Agapov, was skeptical about the interview granted by Dzhokhar Dudayev to a German newspaper, in which the Chechen leader said about likely bombing of Moscow.

Agapov voiced doubt that such interview did take place because there is no communication with Groznyy. The more so, believes the Ingush vice-president, Dudayev is a professional pilot and "imagines the difficulty of an air strike against the Russian capital. Besides, he has no aviation now at his disposal."

Government Press Service on Situation in Chechen Republic

LD1401184295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Jan—The press service of the Government of the Russian Federation today released the following report:

"According to the report by the command of the federal forces, the situation in the Chechen Republic remains difficult. Despite considerable losses in manpower and weapons, as well as the loss of a number of fundamental installations in Groznyy, illegal armed formations, which are mainly made up of fanatical fighters and Muslim mercenaries, are continuing to put up stubborn resistance to subunits of the Armed Forces, interior forces, and Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the Chechen command is deploying additional forces in the southeastern districts of the capital and its suburbs with the aim of preventing the encirclement of the Groznyy grouping and securing the withdrawal of the illegal armed formations to the mountains in the south of the republic.

"The situation is deteriorating on the territories of Dagestan and Ingushetia, which border Chechnya, where anti-Russian and anti- army propaganda is being conducted with some effect by Chechen representatives and nationalists from the Confederation of the Peoples of the Caucasus. A radio jamming system is being used to keep out the influence of the Russian mass media on the republic's population, and Radio Russia is among those stations being jammed. Ingushetia's television is conducting pro-Dudayev propaganda. The leadership is making provocative appeals to the population to 'refrain' from attacking columns of Russian troops should they be withdrawn through the territory of Ingushetia.

"In the course of last night and today (14 January), subunits of the western and northern groups held on to the blocks and buildings that they took possession of yesterday. Subunits and units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation strengthened their positions on Repin Street and Peace Street, came out onto Victory Avenue, and occupied Karl Marx Street, setting up road-blocks on it. Shock units dislodged Dudayev fighters from a number of administrative buildings and occupied a number of blocks on Ordzhonikidze Avenue opposite the presidential palace. Dudayev's bandit formations launched a number of attacks on the Council of Ministers building, which is crucial to the defense of the central part of Groznyy. All attacks were repelled by Lieutenant General L. Rokhlin's subunits.

"The interior troops and the Interior Ministry have been closing off the fighters' main areas of movement, blockading areas of deployment of the bandit formations on the territory of the Chechen Republic, and closing the administrative border of the Chechen Republic with the aim of excluding the flow of bandit formations, mercenaries, weapons, and equipment. Combined units of the Armed Forces and the OMON [special purpose militia detachment] have combed a number of districts of Groznyy, disarming and liquidating fighters.

"In the course of combat operations, a company of paratroopers commanded by Senior Lieutenant O.G. Dyachenko and the mortar teams of Senior Lieutenant A.V. Shlemin acted courageously.

"Sergeant-Major I.A. Ivanov (Siberian Military District) was surrounded for six days and nights in Groznyy. Though wounded, he managed to break out, bringing with him four servicemen.

"Company mechanic Senior Ensign G.S. Kirichenko (Volga Military District) personally drove 24 wounded men out of the battlefield in an armored personnel carrier. He returned to Palace Square eight times under fire to pick up the wounded. He was injured.

"The servicemen are extremely upset to see that there has been no reaction in the Russian mass media to instances of Dudayev's bandits desecrating the bodies of servicemen of the Russian Federation. Human Rights

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Commissioner Sergey Kovalev is also keeping silent about this. A commission should be created to investigate this brutality."

Groznyy Situation Did Not Radically Change Overnight

LD1401184695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1835 GMT 14 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 14 TASS—The situation in the Chechen capital did not radically change by night. The fighting moved to the area of the Minutka cafe in a 20-minutes walk from the so-called presidential palace.

Several areas in downtown Groznyy on the Dudayev Palace-Minutka cafe line are changing hands. The very "palace" building remains under control of the illegal armed units. In some residential areas they are hunting for Russian radio operators-pointers, according to the reports of witnesses.

Shell fragments are piercing the air above a central square where bread was handed in this morning. The number of dead cannot be estimated. More people are coming to the square to be transported to their homes, spend a night in semi-ruined buildings, try to save their property and leave the city again.

Shellings are not the only reason for deaths in Groznyy. Pillagers have grown active. Musarov, 46, a native resident of Groznyy, told ITAR-TASS his neighbours and he prevented pillage of city hospital today. The pillagers are often using guns.

Russians Consolidate Hold on Central Groznyy

LD1501031895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Command of the Federal Forces, the situation in Groznyy remains difficult. In the course of the night of 13-14 January subunits of the western and northern groups held the districts and buildings they had taken on 13 January. The troops consolidated their positions in Shelepin Street and Mir [Peace] Street and reached Prospekt Pobedy [Viktory Avenue], took Karl Marx Street, and set up block posts on it. Assault detachments removed Dudayev's fighters from several administrative buildings and occupied a number of blocks of streets on Prospekt Ordzhonikidze opposite the presidential palace.

Dudayev's bandit gangs have mounted several attacks on the building of the Council of Ministers in the central part of Groznyy. All attacks were repulsed.

Shooting Resumes in Groznyy Center; No Change Overnight

LD1501100295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0647 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 15 Jan, ITAR-TASS—The past night has not brought about any substantial changes to the situation that existed in Groznyy late on Saturday. At dawn, shooting resumed in the town center, ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko reported.

Yesterday, active combat actions were concentrated in the blocks immediately adjoining the former oblast committee building, which is better known as the "presidential palace." At the end of the day, according to eyewitnesses, the building remained under the control of illegal armed formations. [passage omitted]

Press Service Issues Chechen Operations Update

LD1501132595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1056 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Jan—The Russian Federation Government press service gave ITAR-TASS the following report:

"According to the advance group of the Russian Federation Government press service, during the past 24 hours, groupings of Federal troops have continued to conduct combat operations to seize the center of Groznyy, to disengage and split the groups of illegal armed formations, and to blockade them. They have carried out a thorough cleansing of key areas and received troop reinforcements. Work has continued by engineering forces to repair the Groznyy-North airfield.

The Internal troops of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs have closed off the fighters' main routes of movement, blockaded areas on the territory of Chechnya where illegal armed formations are deployed, provided defensive cover for the administrative frontiers of the Chechen Republic in order to stop the flow of bandit formations, mercenaries, arms and equipment, guarded communications lines, roads and bridges, and inspected vehicles and loads.

The troops of the anti-Dudayev opposition have remained in the same areas as previously and have not been taking part in the combat operations.

Aircraft of the Federal troops have inflicted air strikes on identified targets, transported troops and loads, evacuated sick and injured, and also provided close air support.

It is planned on 15 January to continue operations to seize the central part of Groznyy, to blockade, disengage and disarm illegal armed formations and to receive troops from other parts of Russia into the grouping.

During the past 24 hours an operational group of the Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Natural Disasters has prepared and dispatched a column carrying humanitarian aid (66 tonnes) to the settlement of Urus-Martan. Two Il-76 aircraft carrying medicines and medical equipment for hospitals have arrived and been unloaded; humanitarian aid (179 tonnes of foodstuffs) has been given to the people living along the railway

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route Mozdok-Chervlennaya; medicines have been handed over to the central hospital in the town of Mozdok.

In a number of settlements self defense detachments that are not under the control of the Dudayev regime are being set up and are obstructing the passage and combat operations of the Dudayev fighters."

Moscow's Chechens Have No Instructions for 'Terrorist Acts'

LD1501195895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chechen community in Moscow has not received any specific instructions from Dzhokhar Dydayev to carry out terrorist acts in the capital. However, even if such instructions are given, nobody is going to follow them, (Mekhdi Abdul Zakhabov), member of the Council of Elders of the Moscow branch of the Daimokh (Fatherland) organization of the Chechen- Ingush diaspora, told INTERFAX in Yaroslavl. Touching on Chechnya's future, he noted that in today's economic situation no sensible politician will speak about the republic's full independence from Russia. In his view, Chechnya should be given the same status as, for instance, Tatarstan.

Associates May Eliminate Dudayev 'When Right Time Comes'

LD1501225695 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2050 GMT 15 Jan 95

[From the "Nota Bene" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] Heavy fighting is continuing in Groznyy and its outskirts. Federal troops are firing artillery shells and bombs against the Presidential Palace. According to some information, Dzhokhar Dudayev is there. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the prospect of guerrilla war in Chechnya is causing great concern.

[Begin recording Salambek Khadzhiyev, chairman of the Chechen republic's National Revival Government] For the Chechen people, Dudayev is more terrible than Hitler was for the German people, because they have the same methods, manners, and essence. On the whole, in his inner self he is a fascist; you have put it correctly. We will judge him by normal human standards for everything he has done. Of course, if his associates—and most of his associates are criminals, quite powerful people from the criminal world—if they leave him alive. It seems to me that they have been controlling him for a long time already; he can no longer do anything independently. Naturally, when the right time comes, they will eliminate him. [end recording] [passage omitted: correspondent comments on Dudayev's army including many mercenaries]

[Correspondent] More than 1,000 people blocked the way of a train carrying humanitarian cargo near the village of Shelkovskaya. Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, and Umar Avturkhanov [head of Chechen Interim Council] addressed those assembled, but they failed to convince them that the cars contained food and clothing rather than weapons. The train returned to Mozdok.

Minister Shoygu Flies to Groznyy To Direct Rescue Work

LD1501235495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2318 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—On the night of 15 January, Sergey Shoygu, minister for civil defense, emergency situations, and natural disasters, and his three deputy ministers, as well as staff from the central aeromobile rescue team, flew out to work in Groznyy. At the same time, rescue teams from the North Caucasus, Elbrus, Kabarda, and Adygeya search and rescue services are being moved towards Groznyy to carry out salvage and search and rescue work.

In an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent before he left, the minister expressed the hope that the rescuers, who will be under his personal direction, will manage to carry out work to find and remove the victims from the debris, give aid to the wounded, and collect the dead bodies. Everybody will get help, independent of nationality. Sergey Shoygu also said the rescuers would work in the zone of military actions only on a volunteer basis.

Dudayev Says Russian Officers Defecting to Chechen Forces

AU1601100495 Hamburg WELT AM SONNTAG in German 15 Jan 95 p 5

[Interview with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev by Nikolay Nor-Mesek, head of the Institute for Soviet Studies in Frankfurt, "during the Soviet large-scale attack on Groznyy on Saturday morning," 14 January, via satellite telephone from the presidential palace: "Dudayev: We Are Fighting From House to House—47 Russian Generals Are Already on Our Side"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nor-Mesek] How do you assess the latest large-scale attack on Groznyy?

[Dudayev] A clever operational leadership does not announce such an attack. We are heavily shelled by artillery and occasionally bombed.

[Nor-Mesek] How do you defend yourselves?

[Dudayev] We are fighting from house to house, street by street. The poor guys Yeltsin sent into battle have no chance. We will disarm them and treat them well. Already now we have many deserters, soldiers, and officers, including generals, as prisoners.

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[Nor-Mesek] In Moscow it is said that Groznyy is already completely in the hands of the Russian troops....

[Dudayev] There the desire is greater than the truth. Many followers of Prime Minister Khadjivev of the interim government appointed by Moscow and of Chechen opposition leader Avturkhanov are defecting to us.

[Nor-Mesek] New naval infantry units of the Baltic and Pacific Fleets are now to be used in Chechnya....

[Dudayev] By the time they have been shown around the terrain, we will have disarmed them and then they will perhaps be good fellow-fighters for us....

[Nor-Mesek] Are you really sure of that?

[Dudayev] Almost all simple soldiers did not know precisely where they were stationed. This is proven by documents on the situation and assessments of the situation that we have found. And the orders that we captured showed us an army that was sent into battle very badly prepared.

[Nor-Mesek] And what about the technical equipment?

[Dudayev] The other side has a great deal of good military equipment. But a lot has also fallen into our hands.

[Nor-Mesek] How long might the fight still last?

[Dudayev] Very long. Perhaps longer than in Afghanistan.

[Nor-Mesek] Do you have enough soldiers?

[Dudayev] Yes. More and more Russian officers and soldiers are joining us; 47 Russian generals are already on our side. Moscow is sending its own people to the slaughter, and we are fighting against occupying forces. Who doesn't want to be master in his own house?

[Nor-Mesek] Is Yeltsin in control of the events in Moscow?

[Dudayev] Certainly. He is abusing the army for his political interest of power.

[Nor-Mesek] Is he getting correct information?

[Dudayev] He obviously believes in the glossing over of things done by his subordinates. He is far away from reality at his nicely laid table while his soldiers are lying starving here at the front.

[Nor-Mesek] And what about the Russian generals?

[Dudayev] Yeltsin is the commander in chief. But he does not listen to the smart people in his general staff.

[Nor-Mesek] Do you get support from the Islamic world?

[Dudayev] Yes. But not only from there. Our fraternal countries in the Caucasus are also already attacked, and they are joining us to an ever greater extent.

Dudayev: Chechens 'Will Fight to the Last Drop of Blood'

AU1601093195 Hamburg BILD AM SONNTAG in German 15 Jan 95 p 3

["boe/fwm" report: "Groznyy: The War of Old Men, Women, and Children"]

[FBIS Translated Text] They have no chance, but they do not give up. The last Chechen fighters are defending their bombed capital Groznyy with their last strength. Old men, women, and children participate in the fighting. Once again the capital city was heavily shelled during the day, once again there were bomb attacks, once again people died. In the evening the Russian soldiers managed to enter the presidential palace—despite the resistance of the people of Groznyy—and to fight with the Chechens.

In an interview with BILD AM SONNTAG Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev (50) threatened to bomb Moscow. In an exclusive interview, which Nikolay Nor-Mesek, an expert on Russia from Frankfurt, held with Dudayev in his secret command center outside the capital via satellite telephone, the president and former Air Force general said: "Moscow should not feel so safe. We, too, can do what a young German pilot did several years ago—land in Red Square. We know the terrain better. We can also bomb. We will fight to the last drop of blood—God willing."

Chechnya probably has a few intermediate-range missiles, artillery, seven combat helicopters captured from the Russians, as well as a few dozen jets, which have not yet been used.

Dudayev reproached Russian President Yeltsin: "Now he even believes his own lies. He does not want to negotiate at all."

Right-wing extremist Russian politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told DER SPIEGEL that Yeltsin's troops should have "acted earlier and more harshly." If he had been in command, Zhirinovskiy said, "now Groznyy would be a big bomb crater." He added: "The world should fear Russia."

In Germany there have again been different positions regarding the war in Chechnya. Chancellor Kohl affirmed his determination to continue supporting Yeltsin. Despite the terrible suffering, Germany is interested in not letting Russia be destabilized.

In contrast, Christian Democratic Union Bundestag Deputy Willy Wimmer, vice president of the OSCE, harshly criticized the Federal Government. Wimmer told BILD AM SONNTAG: "Advocating the respect of human rights has been an important principle of German policy for decades. The Federal Government has neglected to make this clear in time to Boris Yeltsin and to the German people. The OSCE clearly stated that violations of human rights are not the internal affairs of

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a state. The OSCE is convinced that Germany and France would have had the opportunity to exert influence on Yeltsin in time. Even Mr. Bogomolov, the head of the Russian delegation at the OSCE, has confirmed this to me." The OSCE has 53 member states.

Fierce Fires, Shelling, But No Advance in Groznyy

LD1601072695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0703 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 16 Jan—In the center of Groznyy this morning fresh fierce fires broke out. All last night shelling of the city's districts continued. Federal forces have for several days now been keeping to mainly the same positions.

Russian Reinforcements Heading for Groznyy

LD1601091795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 ITAR-TASS—Russia continues to send reinforcements to the Chechen capital of Groznyy the centre of which is in flames after heavy shelling.

TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko reported from Groznyy on Monday that various parts of the city came under heavy shelling overnight. According to some sources, Russian troops have not been advancing and remain in their positions in the city for several days already.

TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov reported from the Ingushi capital of Nazran that convoys with Russian troops have passed to Chechnya overnight. He said 88 trucks with soldiers, as well as 13 infantry fighting vehicles and 12 armoured personnel carriers have moved to Groznyy along the Rostov-Baku highway. 23 cars with refugees guarded by apcs arrived from Chechnya heading for the North Ossetian capital of Vladikavkaz.

In the centre of Groznyy there are still people who have not seen the war. These are the blind pensioners who are now staying in the basement of their dormitory in March 8 street.

A mine exploded close to the dormitory right before TASS correspondent came to see the pensioners. It killed two old men who were going for water.

"I am actually the only person in the family who can see well", Rosa Saydova told TASS. "My five brothers can hardly see anything. This may sound blasphemous, but it is for the first time that I envy them", the woman said.

In the meantime, a Russian military doctor warned against "depicting Chechens as noble heroes" and said they are shooting at ambulances and medical staff. Lieutenant colonel Nikolay Balyas, head of the medical service of the Tula-based airborne division, told the "MOLODOY KOMMUNAR" newspaper in Tula that doctors in Chechnya no longer put on their white smocks as they make them a good target for Chechen snipers. Three ambulance helicopters with clearly seen red crosses on them were downed by Chechen militants, according to him.

Balyas, who was shell-shocked in Chechnya, said the paratroopers from Tula fought courageously and "practically nobody refused to fulfil the orders". Still he admitted that the war in Chechnya "is a greatest tragedy for all".

In the Russian city of Yaroslavl the local Chechen diaspora as well as Chechens from other three neighbouring regions held a meeting to state that they will not allow any acts of terrorism in their regions by Chechen militants.

Russian Troop Deaths in Chechnya Tentatively Put at 500

LD1601120295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, January 15 [date as received] (INTERFAX)—By tentative figures, the Federal Army has lost up to 500 men in killed and twice as many in wounded during the operation in Chechnya, a well-informed military source has reported to INTERFAX. About 200 servicemen are listed as missing.

By some figures, 120-150 Russian combatants are being held prisoner in the basements of the presidential palace and in other places, sought to be located. Meanwhile, it has still been impossible to find out precisely how many servicemen have died.

By one account, there are corpses of Russian soldiers lying on a highway in one area of fighting. However, it is impossible to remove them because of heavy shelling by militants. In some places, residents have buried servicemen in courtyards. However, no identification papers were found on the buried men, nor is it known how many servicemen were buried.

In the meantime, the 8 Army Corps has set up a special mobile service complete with two trucks to collect the bodies of killed on the streets of Groznyy. The service has been instructed to shoot the dogs, taking the corpses away. The military also fear epidemics.

Government Press Service Issues Report on Groznyy Fighting

LD1601125595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 ITAR-TASS—The Press Service of the Government of the Russian Federation released the following report today:

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"Over the past twenty-four hours, groups of federal troops continued combat actions to capture the centre of Groznyy, separate and disband groups of unlawfully armed forces, block and destroy them.

"Under the pressure from the troops, militants are fleeing the city. Panic has been noticed in their ranks.

"The internal troops and the Interior Ministry forces are blocking the main roads along which the militants move, block the places of deployment of bandit formations of the territory of Chechnya, and also guard the administrative border of the republic.

"The opposition forces are located in their earlier places of deployment, and they take no part in hostilities.

"The district's air force in the past 24 hours destroyed concentrations of troops and equipment, ammunition depots. It bombed the strongholds and conducted air surveillance.

"According to the plans for January 16, actions will continue aiming to occupy the central part of Groznyy, block, split and destroy unlawfully armed formations.

"In the past 24 hours, a task force of the Ministry for Emergencies delivered 66 tonnes of humanitarian goods to the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya in Ingushetia. It received and unloaded the aircraft which brought 37 tonnes of food and three tonnes of medication from Omsk.

"According to incoming data, the intensity of street battles in the city of Groznyy is gradually diminishing. The field commanders of the unlawfully armed formations are making desperate attempts at retaining control, at a cost of numerous losses, over the central, southern and south-eastern parts of the city.

"Dudayev's personal pilot has been located and interrogated in Groznyy. He disclosed information about the mechanism and some participants in the deliveries of arms from Russia to Chechnya.

"The materials will be handed over to military prosecutors within the framework of the criminal proceedings already initiated.

"Dudayev's supporters and his closest associates continue to concentrate in the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya. The humanitarian aid and medication delivered to the village along the line of the Ministry for Emergencies is mainly appropriated by the militants who transport them to Chechnya".

Reports Latest Developments

LD1601191295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1852 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—The Russian Government's press service released a report on the situation in the Chechen capital Groznyy as of 17:30 Moscow time on Monday. The report reads as follows:

"According to the federal troop command, the situation in the Chechen capital and some of its districts remained complicated throughout Monday. Federal troops continued operations to seize buildings in downtown Groznyy, to block and disarm illegal armed formations, as well as carried out a blanket cleaning of the territories freed from illegal armed formations.

Units of the northern grouping retained the positions taken up earlier and backed operations by assault forces. They consolidated in the buildings of the oil institute, swimming pool and in the neighbourhoods of Ordzhonikidze Square, Gikalo Street, Sunzha and the city hospital.

Western troops occupied positions in the buildings on Ordzhonikidze Prospekt, Pobeda Prospekt, Rosa Luxemburg Street, Gvardeiskaya Street, Rabochaya Street, and 1st Sovetskaya Street. They continue retaining the buildings of the railway station and the depot.

Units of the eastern grouping blocked Groznyy, repulsed fire attacks by the enemy, exercised control over the road junction and crossings on the western outskirts of the town of Argun.

Interior troops blocked areas of dislocation of bandit formations and sealed the Chechen administrative border to prevent an inflow of militants, weapons and materiel. They carried out special operations to liquidate illegal armed formations in Groznyy and the settlements of Chervlennaya, Nikolayevskaya, Ishcherskaya, Assinovskaya, Novy Sharoy and others.

Also performed was an inspection of four long-distance trains, 22 commuter trains, over 1,000 motor cars.

According to military intelligence data, the command of Dudayev armed formations sees the main task in preserving its forces until the spring and summer period. At the same time, Dudayev militants continue unyielding resistance. They have built defensive dispositions distributed in depth on the route Chemulga-Bamut- Arshty, with 1,500 militants reinforced with artillery and armoured vehicles. A strong point has been set up in Achkhoy-Martan, which is defended by 500 home guards. Large formations are also operating near the villages of Assinovskaya and Bamut.

In the settlement of Alkhan-Kala, a former base of missile troops, there are six or seven tanks of chemicals, which can be used by bandit formations against Russian troops.

Dudayev loyalists mined the bridges over the rivers of Assa (on the route from the village of Novy Sharoy to Groznyy), Fortanga and Shalazha, as well as approaches to these bridges. To protect the bridges, strong points are being equipped, which can be reinforced with heavy weapons.

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The militants leaving Groznyy are concentrating in the mountainous villages of the Chechen Republic. A considerable portion of them has massed up in the settlement of Shaliy, from where ammunition is still being supplied to the Chechen capital.

The possibility cannot be ruled out that Dudayev and his closest aides will leave Chechnya by air through Abkhazia and Ajaria to Turkey, because the air border with Georgia is not under a strict control.

According to the information of the federal border service, a detrimental situation is now developing around the unit of Russian border troops on the border with Ingushetia and Dagestan. Thus, on January 13, unidentified attackers killed three Russian border guards driving to the village of Assinovskaya in Ingushetia. Their bodies were desecreated. A formation of up to 800 Dudayev militants was reported between the villages of Grebenskaya and Shelkovskaya in Chechnya. According to some information, they plan to launch within the next few days intense actions to ensure a withdrawal of illegal armed formations southwards via Dagestan and Azerbaijan.

On Sunday, the city of Yaroslavl hosted a regional conference of Chechens and Ingushis living outside their republics. The conference, called "the situation in Chechnya: Ways out of the crisis. Rendering humanitarian assistance", drew some 200 participants from Russia's central region. They favoured a cease- fire, moratorium on any hostilities, deployment in Chechnya of observers from the U.N., SCSE and other international public organizations, and rendering of humanitarian assistance to all those affected by the conflict. According to the participants, it is necessary to call free elections and a referendum on Chechnya's future status. It was announced that the Chechens living outside the Chechen Republic would prevent terrorist acts on Russian territory and would not back Dudayev's actions to this effect.

The Committee of Russian Soldiers' Mothers thanked the Russian interior troop commander, Colonel-General Anatoliy Kulikov, and the senior officers of the interior troop staff for the assistance in delivering humanitarian aid and in organizing the work of the committee's delegation in the zone of combat actions on the territory of the Chechen Republic."

Issues Report on Chechen Situation

LD1701173195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Jan—The Russian Government press service distributed the following report today:

"According to a report from the federal troop command, during the past 24 hours, groups of Ministry of Defense troops and of Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops have continued combat action to take control of the center of Groznyy and to isolate and destroy illegal armed formations.

Units of the northern, western, and eastern groups have continued to occupy their positions, returning enemy fire, supporting the actions of assault detachments, and manning checkpoints.

The air force has carried out strikes against their set targets, transported troops and freight, and evacuated the wounded.

Street fighting is gradually becoming less intense. Bandit formations, sustaining great losses, are endeavoring to retain control of the central, southern, and southeastern districts of the town.

Information has been received to the effect that the illegal armed formations are leaving the capital of the Chechen republic in groups of between 700 and 900 and in three main directions, toward Gudermes, Sharoy, and Vedenskiy district. They include a detachment of around 900 from the command of Geliskhanov; the head of the Chechen republic's state security department; a special forces regiment (the Muslim fighter regiment, commanded by Gelayev), which is moving towards Sharoy, Itum-Kale, and Khal-Kiloy; a batallion from the command of Basayev, who was killed in Groznyy (up to 800 fighters), which, according to the information received, has been relocated to Kharachoy and Tsentoroy in Vedenskiy district. Chechen troops have been observed moving towards Shali and the Lake Galanchez area.

A considerable number of Chechen personnel are concentrated in the Assinovskaya, Bamut, and Nesterovskay areas. Sabotage groups are being dispatched from there to carry out acts of terror against Russian troops moving on Groznyy or against areas in which Russian troops are concentrated.

Numerous uncoordinated armed formations (in the region of the populated areas of Galyugayevskaya, Kochubeyevskaya, Novokubanskaya, Uspenskaya, Barsukovskaya, Malyy Zelenchuk, etc.) are wandering around the Chechen Republic. They are engaged in sabotage and robbery.

It is clear from a radio intercept that the Chechen fighting groups, despite their fierce resistance and high morale, are suffering one defeat after another. In order to force them to continue fighting, their leader is sending them American dollars directly to their positions. For example, on 14 January, "33" reported to "Panther" that they had sent them money "in order to hold their position.... Approximately $100,000. Fetch all the commanders here."

In a number of populated areas, for example, Urus-Martanovskiy Rayon, self-defense detachments that are not under the control of Dudayev's forces and are obstructing the advance of the bandit formations, are being set up.

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Additional information is coming in about a concentration of fighters at previously created support bases.

Forces opposed to the Dudayev regime are not taking part in the combat operations and have taken control of a number of populated areas in Sovetskiy and Itum-Kalinskiy Rayons. Local self- administration bodies, whose representatives have requested the federal troop command "not to allow further bombardment of these areas and to assist the local population return to a peaceful life," have been set up there.

On 17 January at about 0400, in the region of the populated area of Gerzul on the territory of Khasavyurtovskiy Rayon in the Republic of Dagestan, railway and road bridges across the River Aksay, linking Dagestan and Chechnya, were blown up by unknown persons. Traffic along both routes has been disrupted.

During interrogation of refugees from Groznyy, it has been established that illegal armed formations are using kindergartens, schools, and hospitals as cover. Dudayev's fighters are trying to draw innocent civilians, whose sentiments are loyal to the federal troops, into the conflict. For this purpose mobile groups, using vehicle transporters, which open fire at the sight of Russian aircraft provoking them into retaliatory fire, are being sent out to many populated areas.

Information has been received that indicates the possible deployment in the wooded mountainous regions of Tuapsinskiy Rayon (Krasnodar Kray) of groups of armed fighters who are equipping support bases for conducting guerilla warfare. There is information which points to the preparation of routes for the movement of Dudayev supporters towards Maykop, and, in particular, a special area has been discovered which contains concealed approaches and which can receive several helicopters at the same time.

Information has been received that a number of Western observers are convinced that the stance taken by the Russian mass media in reporting the events in Chechnya has been corrected. This is "a reflection of the the change in public opinion in the direction of a more loyal attitude towards the country's leaders."

The number of servicemen's parents arriving in Mozdok has increased. They are issuing ultimatums demanding that their sons who are taking part in military action in Chechnya be returned. Such actions are coordinated and aggressive in character."

Ilyushenko Investigates Army Insubordination in Chechnya

LD1601175795 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Report on news conference by Aleksey Ilyushenko, acting procurator general of the Russian Federation with unidentified correspondents on 16 January; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified correspondent] The news conference by Aleksey Ilyushenko, the acting procurator general of the Russian Federation, scheduled to take place two days ago, was finally held today. The procurator explained to the numerous journalists that he failed to turn up on Saturday [14 January] because he was chairing a sitting of the collegium of the procuracy on that day, where the issue of refusal by some military to carry out their orders during the Chechen operation was discussed.

[Ilyushenko] "As you know, refusal to carry out an order is punishable by the criminal code of Russia. If we find out during the course of our investigation that some individuals did refuse to carry out their orders, criminal proceedings will be instituted against them and, if found guilty, they will be punished."

[Correspondent] This concerns first of all General Eduard Vorobyev, deputy commander in chief of the ground forces—according to Ilyushenko, he is not in Lefortovo prison, as was reported by some media sources. The acting procurator general said that no criminal proceedings had been started, the situation was merely being investigated. He added:

[Ilyushenko] "We are carrying out some check-ups on a number of people who are, as I have already said, out there, on the spot in Chechnya. However, I would like to point out that Major General Ivan Babichev is not among this group."

[Correspondent] Commenting on the Chechen conflict as a whole, Ilyushenko said that it would only become possible to find out what really happened in Groznyy after the fighting stopped—this was a quote. Nevertheless, even at this stage, Ilyushenko made a very clear-cut statement:

[Ilyushenko] The actions of the president and the government aimed at restoring constitutional legality in Chechnya are fully based on the Constitution and the legislation currently in force."

[Correspondent] Apart from this, a question totally unrelated to developments in Chechnya was touched upon at the news conference. Ilyushenko revealed that the procuracy general had instituted criminal proceedings in connection with the so-called Black Tuesday, 11 October 1994.

[Ilyushenko] "Investigation has shown that the Central Bank had sufficient resources, including administrative resources, to prevent the collapse of the ruble exchange rate. However, this was not done. Criminal proceedings have been instituted and the Federal Counterintelligence Service has been instructed to investigate the case."

Released Colonel Says 70 Troops Held in Presidential Palace

LD1601180695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—As of the morning of January 14, "70 Russian

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servicemen were held in the basement of the presidential palace in Groznyy. If the palace is stormed they are to be shot," Lieutenant-Colonel Yuriy Klaptsov of the Maikop Infantry Brigade told Interfax on Monday. Klaptsov was captured and also held in the basement of the building (formerly the CPSU regional committee of the Chechen-Ingush Republic) in the center of Groznyy.

Helped by the Moscow organization of human right activists "Omega", Klaptsov and other six Russian servicemen were released and arrived in Moscow on Sunday.

He said that the chief of staff of the Chechen armed formations Aslan Maskhadov conditioned the release of Russian servicemen by the demand that upon their arrival home they should "tell the whole truth about the military operation in Groznyy". Fulfilling this condition, the released servicemen will grant on Monday night a news conference in the Moscow House of Journalists.

Klaptsov said that "he did not witness cases of murder of Russian captives". However, he maintains, "people were taken outside from our basement, and they did not return back". "Soon after captives were taken out, gun fire was heard," said Klaptsov.

He believes that the attempt to storm Groznyy taken on the night for January 1 "had no chances for success due to the lack of discipline and uncoordinated actions of troops."

Klaptsov added that "around 50 percent of servicemen were killed" out of the 200-strong battalion of the Maikop Brigade, which seized and held for 1.5 days the city railway station. As a witness, Klaptsov estimates the total casualties of federal troops as of January 3, the date of his capturing, at "over one thousand people". Meanwhile, according to reports from Moscow, the total losses of Russian servicemen and in interior troops are estimated at approximately 500 people.

Speaking about the morale of defenders of the presidential palace, Klaptsov said: "They will fight to death or will go to the mountains but they will not surrender arms."

Head of the "Omega" organization Viktor Popkov told Interfax that the captives were released by order of Chechen vice-president Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

Nizhniy Novgorod Exec Offers Troops Out if Captives Freed

LD1601212995 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More and more initiatives, sometimes very unusual, are being put forward in connection with the Chechen events. The POSTFAKTUM agency reported today that Boris Nemtsov, the governor of Nizhniy Novgorod, has suggested that Dudayev should free 16 captured servicemen from Nizhniy-Novgorod in exchange for a withdrawal of 2,000 Nizhniy Novgorod servicemen from the territory of Chechnya. According to Nemtsov, the Chechen side is willing to accept these conditions but it is unlikely that the Russian command will take this declaration into account.

POW Exchange With Chechnya Fails 'for Technical Reasons'

LD1701171795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 17 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 17 TASS—The first attempt to exchange POWs between Russia and Chechnya failed on Tuesday for "technical reasons", but both sides hope the exchange will take place in the coming days.

Russian soldier Sergey Kuznetsov, 19, who was taken prisoner in Groznyy on January 5 was to be exchanged for Shamil Begeskhanov, 17, seized in the Achkhoy-Martan region of Chechnya. The exchange was to take place in the settlement of Assinovskaya and was agreed by head of the local administration Salamud Umalatov and Russian General Ivan Chernykh who is in command of federal troops in the area.

The exchange did not take place "for technical reasons," Russian representatives told TASS adding that there is hope it will happen in the near future.

Umalatov, in his turn, told reporters that any attempts to find a peaceful solution of the crisis should be implemented in full.

Several Russian servicemen contacted by TASs said they knew nothing about Monday address of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in which he urged talks with Chechnya. All of them spoke on conditions of anonymity and said that nobody needs the war in the rebel republic and that they want only peace.

Russian Troops Consolidate Positions Near Center of Groznyy

LD1601203395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—The situation in Groznyy has not significantly changed during Monday. Our man in the city reported Monday night that federal troops had captured several buildings on the central square and were trying to consolidate their positions there.

The presidential palace, largely destroyed by the shelling, is still held by Chechen fighters. Russian artillery and mortars are continuing the shelling of the central square.

The correspondent says that fewer Chechen fighters are moving towards the presidential palace, possibly because of the shortage of ammunition.

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Nevertheless, they are putting up stiff resistance to the federal troops closing in on the presidential palace from the northern Nadterechnyy District and from the railroad station and the Central Marketplace which is 500 meters away from the presidential place.

Military Source: Pacific Fleet Marines To Join Battle

LD1601214095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2020 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia), Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—Two battalions of marines of the Northern and Baltic fleets are "carrying out active military actions" for freeing the territory of Groznyy from Chechen militants, a well-informed military source told INTERFAX in Mozdok.

Furthermore, marines are patrolling vital highways on Chechen territory near Groznyy.

The same source said a battalion of the Pacific Ocean Fleet marines was preparing for taking part in the operation for freeing Groznyy from Dudayev militants.

The source said commander of the Russian Navy Coastal Troops, Colonel-General Ivan Skuratov was now in Mozdok for coordinating activities of marines and other federal troops.

Rights Expert Kovalev Says Yeltsin's 'Political Time Is Up'

AU1701100595 Munich FOCUS in German 16 Jan 95 p 187

[Interview with Sergey Kovalev, human rights expert, by Jens Siegert; place and date not given: "Yeltsin's Time Is Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Siegert] Is there any way to end the war at the moment?

[Kovalev] This depends on all of us. The pressure on the government must increase. Without it we cannot live in Russia. One cannot live in a country in which the top people lie and the leaders of the state prove to be villains. It is embarrassing for me to live in such a country—and, furthermore, it is not without dangers.

[Siegert] Why did the offer for a cease-fire on 10 January 1995 fail?

[Kovalev] It was declared unilaterally by the Russian Government and, as far as I know, not discussed with the Chechen side and formulated in an unacceptable way.

[Siegert] Chechen President Dudayev is for speedy talks. He said that Chechnya cannot win against the Russian Army and did not rule out that Chechnya might continue to belong to Russia—with a special autonomy status. Is the Russian side now implying that he is weak?

[Kovalev] I know how our military assesses this: as a sign of weakness and a signal for a definite victory. I am convinced that a military victory is impossible. But the military is torpedoing our efforts for peace.

[Siegert] Why do the Duma and the Federation Council not oppose this war more effectively?

[Kovalev] Because they are like their voters... Because democracy in Russia has something to do with basic problems of the generations. One needs democrats for democracy. Such democrats do not exist in Russia. It is a miracle that the reforms have made as much progress as they have.

[Siegert] Is Yeltsin still in control? What is your impression?

[Kovalev] No president, not even one in a totalitarian regime, can do what he wants. It seems to me that Yeltsin's leeway is shrinking. He himself is responsible for that. A president has primarily one task: putting his team together. Yeltsin has not managed that. Someone who chooses a bad team is surrounded by villains. This has happened to Yeltsin. In my view, Yeltsin's political time is up.

[Siegert] In Chechnya, you have talked to Russian soldiers and officers. Are there any signs of refusal to follow orders or mutiny?

[Kovalev] I do not believe that there will be major mutinies in the near future. However, everyone, from the common soldier to the commander, sees this operation as a quixotic venture. Yeltsin and Grachev got us into this mess, they say.

[Siegert] Is Dudayev the undisputed leader in Chechnya?

[Kovalev] If elections were held today, he would win. In Groznyy, I met people who do not approve of Dudayev's policy. They said: I have never been a supporter of Dudayev, but now he is leading the nation. And I will fight with a weapon in my hand for my soil, my family, my house.

[Siegert] What consequences will the war have for Russia?

[Kovalev] If there is a long war in the Caucasus, the government will have to introduce censorship. This might lead to a civil war or a dictatorship, because lies can be covered up only by force. At the other extreme, the society will consolidate in protest.

[Siegert] What do you think will happen?

[Kovalev] I am afraid, the most likely thing is a dirty mixture of these possibilities. (endall) isg21701.02 16 jan is/Waters/ab 17/1002

'Sources' Claim 1160 Russian Servicemen Killed in Chechnya

LD1701115495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Jan 17 (INTERFAX)—Corpses of around 1160 Russian soldiers killed

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in Chechnya have been sent from Mozdok to burial places aboard "black tulips"—a term servicemen use for the helicopters which carry those killed in action. These figures received by the INTERFAX correspondent in Mozdok from confidential sources exceed official figures by more than three times.

Doctors working in the zone of conflict note the harsh savagery with which Chechen militants kill Russian soldiers. The corpses of many of them are sliced in half and have been beheaded. The bullet wounds indicate that gang members finish off those who are injured.

Our INTERFAX correspondent reports that currently in the Mozdok morgue there are 20 unidentified corpses of Russian servicemen.

The term "black tulip" for helicopters carrying those killed in action, was born during the war in Afghanistan.

Army Commander Says Chechen Resistance 'Has Slackened'

LD1701115195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1127 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Jan 17 (INTERFAX)—Dudayev's palace in Groznyy has not been captured only because the military command wants to avoid unnecessary losses, the commander of the 8th army corps (Western group) Lev Rokhlin told a Monday conference in Groznyy with the director of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service Sergey Stepashin.

According to the general, the resistance of militants has slackened. Dudayev's supporters in the palace reportedly feel a shortage of ammunition. The palace has been practically blocked by federal troops. The delivery of ammunition and food to the militants has been interrupted. According to the general, individual boxes with mines and cartridges are carried to the palace. Intelligence sources say militants have been leaving the center of Groznyy.

According to some sources, federal troops control about 30 percent of the territory of Groznyy. But the military say this does not mean the rest of the city is controlled by militants. In several regions the population is independently forming self-defence units to resist Dudayev's supporters.

Stepashin said armed formations of the provisional council will be involved in restoring order in the city.

Chechen Radio Claims Militants Starving, Being Given Drugs

LD1701160595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Report over video by correspondents A. Dubnov, V. Sysoyev, G. Obukhov, with announcer's introduction; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to the government press service's latest report, the intensity of street fighting in Groznyy is slowly abating. The illegal armed formations are suffering great losses and the federal air force is striking at discovered targets. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It looks like the street fighting in Groznyy is slowly abating, although shooting and the desperate resistance of Dudayev's supporters continues in the city center. Our camera team was in Groznyy in the area of the cannery and at the headquarters of the federal troops. General Rokhlin [captioned as L. Rokhlin, general] read excerpts from radio intercepts of the militants.

[Rokhlin] The militants have an acute shortage of small arms ammunition, and charges for grenade launchers are distributed by the piece. There is an acute shortage of food and the militants are starving. On the order and directions of the leadership the militants are issued with drugs—and this is not a fabrication, but a radio intercept.

[Announcer] The military believe that Dudayev's palace will be taken in the next few days. This is beyond doubt, of course, but will the confrontation in the Chechen Republic end with that?

Ingushetia Denies Presence of Dudayev Supporters in Sunzha

LD1701170795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Jan 17 (INTERFAX)—"There are no illegal armed groupings of Dudayev's supporters or opponents in the Sunzha region of Ingushetia," Ingushetia's Interior Minister Mukharbek Agiyev told Interfax on Tuesday.

He described as a "provocation" the reports that Dudayev's supporters "have stepped up their activity in Ingushetia," circulated by some of the mass media.

Meeting With Chechen Envoys Called 'Discussion' Not 'Talks'

LD1701170695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 17 (INTERFAX)—The meeting in Moscow between Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, First Deputy Minister for Nationalities Vyacheslav Mikhailov on the one hand, and Dzhokhar Dudayev's envoys on the other was "a discussion rather than talks," informed sources in the Ministry for Nationalities and Regional Policies told Interfax on Tuesday.

"It's just a little step towards talks," a source told Interfax. He also said that "every measure is being taken to ensure a peaceful solution of the Chechen problem—which is in the interests of both sides."

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He noted, however, that the results of the future talks might be affected by the fact that "some of the illegal armed groups operate independently of Dudayev." Much will depend on the position of the field commanders, he said.

Among those who will refuse to surrender arms are "foreign mercenaries, who have no way back, along with suicidal fighters and groups of irreconcilable militants," he continued.

He pointed out that for a start, a cease-fire and truce agreement must be reached which will be strictly observed by both sides. Only after this can talks begin on the surrendering of weapons and normalization of the situation.

Shakhray Holding Talks With 2 Chechen Officials in Moscow

LD1701165895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 17 (INTERFAX)—Two Chechen officials—Finance and Economics Minister Tamaz Abubakarov and Prosecutor General Usman Imayev—are holding talks in Moscow with Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray.

The delegation arrived in Moscow after brokerage by President Ruslan Aushev of Ingushetia.

Chechen representative in Moscow Khamad Kurbanov told INTERFAX that it would become clear after this round of talks whether or not the two Chechen officials would be allowed to meet with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Tuesday.

"There has been no official reaction from Groznyy yet to Chernomyrdin's Monday address," Kurbanov said.

It is now known that the Chechen delegation met First Deputy Minister for Nationalities Vyacheslav Mikhailov earlier in the day.

Groznyy Shelling Continues Despite Cease-Fire Accord

AU1701163595 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 17 (AFP)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and two cabinet ministers from the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya on Tuesday [17 January] reached an agreement in principle on a ceasefire in the Chechnya conflict, a Chechen spokesman said.

Chechen Justice Minister Usman Imayev said at a press conference: "We have reached an agreement on a ceasefire and a halt in military action."

He said the ceasefire could start as early as Wednesday night.

A government spokesman confirmed the accord, which came during an hour-long meeting between Chernomyrdin and vice premier Sergei Shakhrai on one hand and Imayev and Chechen Economics Minister Teimuraz Abubakarov on the other.

Imayev, a close aide of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudaev, said the issue of prisoner exchanges would be discussed later. He added that Ingush President Ruslan Aushev had acted as go-between in brokering the ceasefire accord.

But Imayev could not give any firm official timing for the ceasefire, or announce any official signing.

Meanwhile, AFP correspondents at the Chechen capital of Groznyy said Russian bombardments of Chechen positions in the city were continuing Tuesday.

A 48-hour ceasefire declared unilaterally by the Kremlin last week collapsed after two hours, although the intensity of fighting lessened over the two days.

Earlier Tuesday, Russian President Boris Yeltsin had met Chernomyrdin to discuss a ceasefire proposal made by the premier on Monday.

And Shakhrai had briefed Chernomyrdin on his exploratory talks Monday with Imayev and Abubakarov, who were sent here Sunday by the Chechen leader.

The Chechen envoys, due to return to Grozny on Wednesday, came with a mandate from Dudayev to discuss a ceasefire, saying this was "an essential condition for a political agreement and talks on a broad, long-term accord."

On Monday Chernomyrdin had proposed a ceasefire and immediate negotiations with Chechen secessionists, along with the gradual establishment of peace zones where Chechen fighters must give up their arms.

Dudayev Aide Says Cease-Fire Possible 18 Jan

AU1701175495 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Report by Graham Brown]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Moscow, Jan 17 (AFP)—After nearly three weeks of savage fighting and thousands of deaths, Russia and Chechnya Tuesday [17 January] announced agreement in principle on a ceasefire in the battle for the Chechen capital of Groznyy.

As the fighting between Russian forces and Chechen defenders continued in Groznyy, Chechen envoy Usman Imayev told a news conference here: "We have reached agreement on a ceasefire and a halt to military action."

He was speaking after an hour-long meeting with Russian Prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The agreement was confirmed by a Russian Government spokesman.

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Imayev, a close aide to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, said the ceasefire in the breakaway republic could start as early as Wednesday night.

Also present at the meeting was Russian vice premier Sergei Shakrai and Chechen Economy Minister Teimuraz Abubakarov, who told AFP that Dudayev's response to the ceasefire offer might come as soon as Wednesday evening.

Imayev said the issue of prisoner exchanges would be discussed later. He added that Ingush President Ruslan Aushev had acted as go-between in brokering the ceasefire accord.

But Imayev could not give any firm official timing for the ceasefire, or announce any official signing. [passage omitted]

The Chechen envoys, who were due to return to Grozny on Wednesday, said a ceasefire was "an essential condition for a political agreement and talks on a broad, long-term accord." [passage omitted]

But while the talking was going on, Russian shells, rockets and bombs continued to rain down on the devastated Chechen capital on Tuesday. AFP reporters said some Chechen defenders were showing signs of panic. [passage omitted]

More on Cease-Fire Talks in Moscow

MK1701114095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Ostalskiy, Sergey Parkhomenko under the "Premier" rubric: "Moscow Starts Talks With Dudayev's Emissaries"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Appearing on television yesterday, Viktor Chernomyrdin put forward further proposals for a Chechen settlement. "Our main objective is to stop bloodshed," the premier stated, and expressed readiness "immediately to start talks with all interested sides and forces of Chechnya." Mr. Chernomyrdin named as the main questions of the first stage of talks a moratorium on movement of troops and military equipment; stopping the use of all types of heavy arms; the creation of mutual no-use-of-force zones; as well as unhindered shipping of humanitarian aid to the conflict area. "Getting talks under way would simultaneously mean a cease- fire," the premier said.

The head of the Russian Government also advised that "preparation for a negotiating process has in fact begun," and he recalled his recent meetings with representatives of Chechens living outside Chechnya and his consultations with the leaders of all regions of the Northern Caucasus. To all appearances, the premier is not clear on a mechanism to get the talks started because his current interlocutors have hardly any influence on Dudayev's fighters. On the other hand, Mr. Chernomyrdin's readiness to conduct talks "with all sides and forces" should perhaps be seen as also an invitation for talks General Dudayev himself.

That this is so was confirmed by the 15 January arrival in Moscow of a Chechen Republic delegation headed by Chechen Republic Economy Minister Teymuraz Abubakarov and Prosecutor General Usman Imayev. Mr. Abubakarov told a SEGODNYA correspondent that the delegation has Dzhokhar Dudayev's authorization to hold talks with federal authorities on terms of a ceasefire in Chechnya. "The halting of combat operations is an indispensable condition for a political dialogue with Russia. All longer-term accords are out of the question before an agreement on this has been concluded," the Chechen Republic economy minister stated.

Mr. Abubakarov also said that the delegation met 15 January with Sergey Shakhray, Russian Federation Government vice premier; and Aleksandr Mikhaylov, deputy minister for nationalities affairs. A meeting of the Groznyy representatives with Viktor Chernomyrdin has been tentatively set for today. [passages omitted]

Fighting Continues in Groznyy

LD1701112595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 17 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 17 TASS—Downtown Groznyy is, as before, the centre of combat operations where both troops and civilians die. Groznyy residents learnt about Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's proposals which he expressed in his TV address, from radio reports and are waiting, at least, for a short respite.

ITAR-TASS learnt in Groznyy on Tuesday that the premier's proposals are also known to Chechen gunmen whose positions are close to Groznyy's central throroughfares.

However, some field commanders do not find anything new in the position of the Russian premier, since, as they assert, "the Chechen side also repeatedly proposed talks".

Mothers and fathers of soldiers who want to find their sons, continue to arrive in grozny. For instance, the parents of private Aleksey Razgulyaev who was, according to press reports, taken prisoner, came from Murmansk on Tuesday.

The parents have information that their son is at one of basements in the area of the "Minutka" cafe. They believe that Chernomyrdin's proposals are "somewhat late", but if talks start immediately, several dozen lives could be saved.

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Kazakh Enterprise Stops Selling Raw Material to Magnitogorsk

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 5

[Article by Anatoliy Usoltsev titled: "Approach to Magnitka: Why the Handshake Between Russian and Kazakh Metallurgists is Weakening"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new production complex, Hot-Rolling Mill 2000, was recently placed into operation at the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine. Executives from the capital and oblast centers came to Magnitogorsk to mark that occasion which would have been called a labor victory in the past.

On that day Anatoliy Starikov, general director of the Joint-Stock Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine, deputy of the Federation Council, had every right to say to those present that the mill allowed the combine to produce hot-rolled sheet metal meeting world standards.

In one's life it frequently happens that happy moments alternate with bitter hours. Even though plants are not people, they also have bright and dark periods.

Now word has come from Magnitogorsk that the metallurgical combine, the principal enterprise in a city with a half-million population, is on the verge of stoppage. What has happened?

The fact is that there was a change in management at the Sokolovo-Sarbayskiy Mining and Concentration Association. The new director Mikhail Bazhenov at first confirmed the long-term contracts between the mining and concentration association and the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine, which, by the way, have been embodied in interstate agreements between Kazakhstan and Russia. Suddenly in November, the Magnitogorsk workers discovered that their Kazakhstan partners unilaterally cut their long-standing ties, and went ahead and signed a contract with a foreign firm to sell all raw material produced by the mining and concentration association before the end of 1995. The foreign firm-intermediary, in turn, immediately hiked the price for pellets. The logic of the robber—the Magnitogorsk metallurgists have no alternative but to purchase.

The Sokolovo-Sarbayskiy association explains its perfidious behavior blaming the indebtedness of the consumers. They purportedly receive the products on time but do not want to pay. Some figures were cited in the 29 November issue of KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA: Magnitogorsk owes the mining and concentration combine some 270 million while Karaganda owes 110 million tenge.

I can say nothing about the Karaganda metallurgical combine as it is located in sovereign Kazakhstan. Here is an official statement issued by Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine through Anatoliy Kirichenko, deputy chief of the Material-Technical Supply Section: "In accordance with the protocol (which was also signed by Mikhail Bazhenov) the association owes the Magnitogorsk combine more than six billion rubles [R] for rolled metal products, limestone, and consumer goods."

What debt owed by the Magnitogorsk combine are the Kazakh partners talking about? Andrey Belishko, president of the Association of Entrepreneurs of Southern Urals, held a series of meetings with Altay Tleuberdin, minister of economy and Aleksandr Pavlov, the minister of finance. A protocol of intention was signed to preserve long-term ties in the sphere of the metallurgical complex. Recently there was a meeting between the president of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and Serafim Afonin, chairman of Roskommetallurgiya [Committee on Metallurgy of the Russian Federation) and Anatoliy Starikov, secretary general of the MMK Joint-Stock Company. Anatoliy Ilyich described the results of that meeting as follows:

The principal issue which was discussed by the president of Kazakhstan concerned the prospects of our relations in the development of the Magnitogorsk iron ore base. At present we must have clear knowledge of where the raw material base of Magnitogorsk will be located even in 10 - 15 years. The most acceptable variant for us is to continue receiving pellets from the Sokolovo-Sarbayskiy association with which Magnitogorsk has always maintained good relations. We understand that the government of Kazakhstan expects us to make investments in the iron ore base. Magnitogorsk is ready for that. But in order to invest funds in a foreign enterprise we must have certain guarantees. We got such guarantees from Nursultan Nazarbayev. We were assured that Sokolovo-Sarbayskiy association will remain the iron ore base for Magnitogorsk. The government of Kazakhstan is ready to preserve the good partnership relations that existed in the past.

It would appear that the difficult period at Magnitogorsk is being replaced by a bright future? One would like to believe that. Some doubts, however, remain: will the government of Kazakhstan be able to influence the wilful director of the Sokolovo-Sarbayskiy association? If Mikhail Bazhenov remains stubborn and refuses to break his contract with the foreign firm, then what?

The Magnitogorsk plant, of course, will not grind to a halt. At the present time the combine receives only 200,000 tonnes of pellets from Sokolovo-Sarbayskiy association instead of 300,000 tonnes as before. If it proves to be impossible to come to an agreement with the Kazakhstan partners, ore will be received from the Lebedinsk Mining and Concentration Combine. There will be expenditures on the readjustment of the production process which will be added to the production cost of the metal and Kazakhstan will have to buy it. Who benefits from what?

An idea was brought forth concerning the creation of a transnational Russian-Kazakhstan industrial-financial corporation. That would benefit both sides.

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Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Discusses Cooperation With Mobil

LD1101183795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1825 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 (TASS)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin discussed plans for long-term cooperation in the field of oil extraction, oil processing and export of Russian fuel with the management of the Mobil Corporation—one of the largest oil companies in the world. The participants in the meeting considered the issue of attracting large credits from the West guaranteed by long-term oil deliveries from Russia.

Plans for cooperation with the Mobil Corporation also touch on a wide range of projects, Oleg Davydov, vice-premier of the Russian Federation, who took part in the talks, told journalists here on Wednesday. These plans include long-term deliveries of Russian oil to third countries through the systems of the Mobil Corporation at guaranteed high prices (about five million tons of oil annually), the participation in the development of fuel deposits on the Sakhalin shelf (the Sakhalin-3 project) and in western Siberia, the construction of gas pipeline Yamal-Western Europe and investments in the Russian industry.

According to Oleg Davydov, the main reason which hinders the Mobil to invest capitals already now is that Russia has no legal basis, first of all a law on the division of products manufactured by enterprises with the participation of foreign partners. This hampers capital investments not only of the Mobil but from abroad on the whole, the vice-premier noted.

The delegation of the Mobil Corporation was headed by chairman of its board, chief executive director Lucio Notto, who is also a coordinator of the Council for Foreign Investments under the Russian Government. The council is headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Panskov Sees Capital Flight Overestimated

LD1201164395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 12 (TASS)—Experts overestimate figures for the Russian capital overseas leakage, Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov told TASS on Thursday. No forceful means would help return the funds. To do this, Russia must create favorable economic conditions, as "money will leak to where it can be better used."

This problem should be handled in a careful manner, as it is criminal, "dirty" money which use to leave Russia, Panskov said.

Panskov outlined measures to attract both domestic and foreign investment. He said Russia must overcome an inflationary spiral, adjust taxation laws, and ban abundances in the legislation to improve the investment climate in the country.

This is what the Russian government program for the stabilization of economy aims to achieve, Panskov said.

Oil Export Decree Seen To Implicate Reforms

MK1201150795 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian, No. 1, 8-15 Jan 95 (Signed to press 10 Jan) p 9

[Article by Vladimir Gurevich, deputy chief editor: "Oil: Release on Probation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Presumably no one economic decision of late has meant both so much and so little as the decree on procedures for the export of Russian oil which entered into force as of January.

Much, because, first, this is an important enough decision in itself. Second, because it was made as a result of tough political confrontation, in a more "pro-market" variant than expected till the very last moment. Third, because it confronted Premier Chernomyrdin with a hard choice (which he did not make at once), showing that he has not distanced himself from reforms and, in spite of the growing pressure, he is not ready to bury them.

Little, precisely owing to this growing pressure. The decision was made under conditions in which chances for the development of reform have sharply diminished while chances for counterreform are taking on realistic contours. In this event the government decree, just like very much else, can be short-lived, especially given that some "compromise," contradictory, provisions were retained in it after all.

Therefore the liberation of oil export from quotas and licensing (as well as the liberalization of oil prices) should so far be regarded as conditional. And the liberalization of the economy from one of the largest thorns in its side in the last three years should be regarded as incomplete.

In fact, this decision had two perfectly understandable objectives. To increase oil export resources so as to raise hard currency revenues. And to bring the structure of domestic prices closer to the world structure. Importantly, one is interrelated with the other. If barriers on the way to export in the shape of quotas are lifted, oil will flow to the world market, where prices are at least three times as high. For the flow not to become massive, domestic prices should approximately double (there is no need for them to grow still higher, to the world level, considering transportation costs and export duties). The process of price increases is planned to be staggered over the current year, with exports being held back by the size of export duties. In this process, the need to pay a real

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price for oil will certainly force consumers realistically to assess their possibilities, which will release additional export resources. What is even more important is that it will end the abnormal situation in which many goods and services have reached world price levels, increasingly running ahead of energy prices.

Such is the well known scheme, and many of its painful "nuances" are also well known. It can hardly be avoided unless one dreams about returning all prices to their original position. Also known is the deficiency of the current quota-license mechanism of distributing oil export rights and the system of "special exporters" and of access to export pipelines. The legends about rampant corruption engendered by these systems are, alas, more than plausible. In this sense the decree also affected a sufficiently sensitive matter for a sufficient number of spears to be broken around it (incidentally, here the changes have proved to be minimal).

Even so this tempting aspect, which is easily formulated with the words "bureaucrats," "feeding trough," and "distribution," is not the main stumbling block in this situation. What is more important today is that without liberalizing its oil export Russia was effectively denied hopes of getting IMF credits, and its budget in this event would be ruined. But this, too, is merely what lies on the surface, but lying deeper is the question of access to the levers of reform, of controlling key economic branches, financial, budgetary, and redistribution flows, whose main source in Russia is the energy sector and will continue to be for a long time to come. For people at the helm and for those laying claim to it, decisions like the above are also to a considerable extent a matter of political power. There is no need to stage coups—either armed or palace ones, considering how difficult and double-edged they are—but instead get the right to prepare and make such decisions, gradually squeezing out those who had such rights earlier.

All of this is certainly not a revelation. Nor does one perceive as such the strange intrusions by First Vice Premier Soskovets into the fuel and energy sphere, which is traditionally overseen by the premier, or General Korzhakov's letter to Chernomyrdin on oil export issues, which has been much fretted over by the mass media. The bottom line of these sensations is that progressively less room is being left for illusions about "reforms." Only masochists can demand more facts and details. In this light the oil export decree, which has now taken effect (regardless of the true value of its economic content), is not a detail but is either an energetic—as far as this is possible—attempt to check counterreform, which is gathering momentum, or the last gasp of reformation.

Urinson Predicts Inflation Rate

LD1301093095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0620 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Russian Deputy Economics Minister Yakov Urinson predicted on Friday that it would be possible to keep the monthly inflation rate in the second and third quarters of 1995 down to 5-7 per cent. He also hopes inflation might be curtailed to 2-3 per cent in the fourth quarter.

Urinson, however, stressed that "everything will depend on the economic situation in the first months of the year".

Central Bank Denies Accounts Freeze

LD1301141995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Krushinskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—The Central Bank of Russia's expert who asked for anonymity described as "pure invention" the rumours which began to creep about on Thursday [12 January] about the bank's plans to freeze foreign currency accounts held by legal and natural persons in Russia's commercial banks.

The expert said: "We have been pestered with telephone calls since early morning. People refer to "a secret letter" we have allegedly circulated with the order to open it on January 15.

People don't even understand that February 15 [as received] is a Sunday and all offices will be closed. But, frankly, we are in a difficulty: how can we deny all these rumours convincingly after our population has been deceived so often..."

The expert's comment is simialr to the statement which presidential economic aide Aleksandr Livshits made during his television appearance on Thursday. However, employees of several commercial banks in Moscow on Thursday rushed to close personal accounts in their own banks.

If panic involves the banks' clientele, the currency market may be seriously destabilised, because many banks which handle foreign currency do not have adequate reserves to meet the panic.

It is likely that the rumour was started by someone out to hit competitor banks. Political factors are also plausible since market stability relates to stability of power.

The Chechen conflict adds to public amxiety. Suspicion arises that authorities plan sculping moves to prop up the country's ailing finances. Moreover, the military campaign in the North Caucasus is a graphic case of general disarray and unpredictability.

The association of Russian banks contacted by ITAR-TASS confirmed that rumours about currency account freezing were indeed in circulation, but declined to comment.

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October's Ruble Plunge Results in 'Proceedings'

LD1301190995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 13 (INTERFAX)— The Russian Prosecutor General's Office has instituted criminal proceedings due to the ruble plunge at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange on October 11, 1994 on the signs of a crime which provides for responsibility for sabotage (Article 69 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

On that day, at the trading carried out a joint-stock company, the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, which was co-founded by the Russian Central Bank, the exchange rate of the ruble against the U.S. dollar fell by more than 25 percent.

A spokesman for the Information and Public Relations Center of the Prosecutor General's Office told Interfax on Friday that "preliminary inspection established that the Central Bank could prevent the ruble plunge both through the use of economic and administrative measures.

The resolution on the criminal proceedings says that "among the consequences of these unseemly deeds were: the undermining of the monetary system of trade and other industries of the national economy which reflected in the ruble plunge, price rise for goods and services, the devaluation of ruble deposits and wages, considerable lowering of the living standards, the aggravation of social tensions, the lowering of confidence to the national currency and the state economic policies, which caused the weakening of the state and the real threat to its security."

Investigation will be carried out by experts of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service.

Davydov Discusses Raise to Foreign Trade Limit

LD1501145695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Jan 15 (Interfax)—Russia plans to raise foreign trade turnover with countries beyond the CIS limits to $80 billion in 1995 which would be 80 percent more than last year, Russian Deputy Premier, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told Interfax in an exclusive interview.

He said the cost of Russian export would reach $50 billion and import $30 billion. Thus, Russia will maintain the favorable balance in foreign trade which will be $20 billion.

Davydov said Russia would activate economic relations with industrially-developed countries and thus raise foreign trade turnover. He said trade with the U.S. and Japan was likely to develop on the basis of regional cooperation.

Commenting on relations between Russia and the EU (European Union) [punctuation as received], Davydov said he disapproved of the position of Europe refusing from signing the already initialled agreement on trade with Russia explaining this by rejection of methods used by Moscow for settlement in Chechnya. He said he considered this as an attempt to interfere into Russia's domestic affairs.

Davydov said the move of the EU was a pretext concealing its unwillingness to sign a provisional agreement with Russia allowing it to export more to Europe. Russian export is still limited by numerous discriminatory restrictions which Davydov qualified as "survivals of the cold war."

Yasin on Inflation, Money Supply

MM1701101495 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Jan 95 pp 1-2

[Interview with Yevgeniy Yasin, Russian Federation minister of economics, by political observer Vitaliy Golovachev on 12 January; place not given: "I Asked Yasin: Will They 'Cut' the Zeroes on Money Bills?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not easy to "get through" to leaders of the Ministry of Economics—they work practically without days off. Following a telephone "siege," I eventually had a conversation yesterday with Ye. Yasin, Russian Federation minister of economics.

[Golovachev] Yevgeniy Grigoryevich, the flywheel of inflation has continued to turn since last October. In December prices increased 16.4 percent, while in January, to judge from the first week, more is expected. What has given rise to this new wave?

[Yasin] All is not yet clear with regard to January, for prices always grow faster in the first week of a new year.... But, in general, we are tackling this problem thoroughly. Analysis shows that the present wave of inflation is due 90-percent to the psychological factor. I am talking of a well-known phenomenon in world practice, mass inflationary expectations. This was contributed to both by "black Tuesday" and by the events in Chechnya....

[Golovachev] Psychology is psychology, but without objective preconditions (the population's having "hot" money, the impossibility of investing it effectively in banks and the economy) this factor will not operate....

[Yasin] Let's see what "hot" money the population has. These are the free funds remaining after essential expenditure. During January-November last year Russians used 17.9 trillion rubles [R] to accumulate savings in the form of deposits and securities and R46.5 trillion to purchase currency, and the increase in the money in hand was R13.8 trillion. Is it good or bad when citizens have money? Under normal conditions this money will help to develop the economy. People will take it to the banks in order to receive interest, will invest it in

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business, etc. This, incidentally, is what was happening last summer. But under conditions of inflationary expectations free funds are spent on buying (for a rainy day) durables, currency.... This merely whips up the inflationary spiral.

In these conditions, moreover, enterprises quickly increase the prices of their products. As a result demand falls, and production declines and even stops. That is, rather unpleasant things happen. This is why mass inflationary expectations are dangerous for the economy.

[Golovachev] Does this mean that monetary emission transfusions into the economy are no longer significant and that it is all a matter of psychology?

[Yasin] Of course emission plays a role. There is a well-known economic dependence between money supply, the ruble currency rate, price dynamics, and inflationary expectations. The amount of money in circulation is the determining factor in the money supply. This indicator concerns the currency exchange above all. The money supply grows—the ruble rate falls. Then prices grow, followed by inflationary expectations. Prices react to a change in the money supply with a lag (interval) of three or four months. From April through the end of summer last year the money supply was increasing quite quickly, and emission "transfusions" into the economy were taking place. Incidentally, the price growth rate was falling at that time—largely because accumulations were growing. Today we are feeling a price echo of the summer transfusions. Since October, however, the money supply has been growing slowly. In October 4 percent (compared with a 15-percent growth in prices), in November also 4 percent, and in December 6 percent. In the subsequent months the government and the Central Bank intend to maintain a low rate of growth in the money supply. This will predetermine an appreciable reduction in the inflation rate in the next few months. Under these conditions panicky forecasts of a further stoking of inflation play a negative role.

[Golovachev] Will the Chechen events not affect inflation? In the estimation of experts at the Ministry of Economics, i.e. your specialists, the cost of rebuilding what has been destroyed in Chechnya could total at the very least R3.5 trillion....

[Yasin] As is known, the budget is now being reworked. The aim is to find the necessary funds for Chechnya by means of a redistribution, but on no account by means of increasing the budget deficit. We will firmly uphold this line.

[Golovachev] Highly serious newspapers are writing that "the chances of developing the reforms are being reduced sharply, while the chances of counterreforms are assuming the nature of reality." Do you agree with this?

[Yasin] Not really. Pressure on reformers is always to be felt, and now too. But I would not say that the chances of developing the reforms are being reduced sharply. Recent confirmation of this is provided by the document concerning oil exports which the premier signed recently.

[Golovachev] As is known, there is tremendous pressure on the premier. Is he succeeding, in your opinion, in pursuing his line?

[Yasin] Yes, he is.

[Golovachev] There is much talk today about the alleged upcoming monetary reform, the revaluation of monies. They say that three zeros are going to be knocked off—the R10,000 banknote will be replaced by R10, the R5,000 banknote will be replaced by R5, and the R50,000 banknote will be taken out of circulation altogether...

[Yasin] This is utter nonsense. I can say quite categorically that these rumors are nothing but a "canard" started up by somebody or other.

[Golovachev] Do you support the idea of the nationalization of enterprises which foreign companies have invested money in and which have ended up in their sphere of influence?

[Yasin] This is very damaging talk. Of course, in certain cases, privatization was conducted in an underhand manner, and here it is necessary to investigate. But if the foreign firm acted within the framework of the law and obtained blocs of shares in line with the government decree, then it is unacceptable to talk about "nationalization." This kind of talk on its own undermines confidence in the state. On the contrary, it is necessary in every way possible to defend private property, private investments....

[Golovachev] Are any kind of documents on the nationalization of enterprises under preparation in the government?

[Yasin] No, none at all.

[Golovachev] The Ministry of Economics is against the modernization [novoye stroitelstvo] of the subway system. Why?

[Yasin] Because there is not much money in the coffers. It is necessary to pump what there is into high-returns projects, and only then, from the receipts, to finance the modernization of the subway, the erection of cathedrals, the construction of expressways....

[Golovachev] But surely, without state subsidies, the price of a journey will have to go up, will it not?

[Yasin] It may have to. We must live within our means. And give special aid to the least well-off.

[Golovachev] And one final question. How, in general, do you appraise the situation in the economy?

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[Yasin] On the whole, it is more or less normal, if you take a longer view over several months. As yet, I see no grounds for panic-ridden forecasts and expectations.

Recent Inflation Rate Measures 3.6 Percent

MM1701094295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 95 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report based on data of the Russian Federation Government Center for the Economic Situation Prices Analysis and Forecasting Administration: "The Week's Prices. Where Is It Cheaper, Where Is It Dearer?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week inflation reached 3.6 percent. Food became 4.4 percent dearer, nonfood commodities became 2.1 percent dearer, and consumer services became 5.3 percent dearer.

Prices of the main food commodities leapt by 4.4 percent. As always, eggs and butter continued to rise in price—by 10 percent over the week. There was a marked increase in prices of dairy products—by 7.6 percent. Prices of meat products and vegetables rose by 5 percent and of fish products and fruit by 4 percent. Prices of salt, flour, and vodka changed least—by 2 percent.

Cities in the Far East region continue to lead the way in terms of the cost of the food shopping basket. They take the first seven places in the list of 130 cities surveyed.

Ulyanovsk remains the "cheapest" city. Moscow is 18th and St. Petersburg is 45th.

Prices of industrial commodities rose a little less than those of food and consumer services—by "only" 2.1 percent. Gasoline again saw the biggest price rise—by 11 percent. Prices of medicines and footwear rose less than others—by approximately 1.5 percent.

The biggest price increases affected industrial goods in the Volga-Vyatka and East Siberia regions. There were substantial increases in gasoline prices in cities in these regions—by 30 and 14 percent, respectively. Moreover, in the Volga-Vyatka region the price of firewood rose by 13 percent and the price of some types of furniture by 7 percent; in the East Siberia region prices of woolen fabrics rose by 19 percent; hosiery by 14 percent, and children's shoes by 10 percent.

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International Affairs

Cabinet Approves IAEA Safeguards

LD1301145495 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 13 Jan—Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers adopted a resolution yesterday approving the agreement between Ukraine and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to apply safeguards to all nuclear materials for all types of Ukraine's peaceful nuclear activity, of which Ukraine's permanent representation to the international organizations in Vienna officially informed the IAEA Secretariat.

The coming into force of the safeguards agreement again confirms the Ukrainian Government's consistent policy aimed at strengthening the international system of nuclear nonproliferation. The safeguards agreement will promote Ukraine's cooperation with other countries in the study and peaceful use of nuclear power and open the way for supplies of nuclear materials and technology to Ukraine, including nuclear fuel for Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

EC Provides Aid Toward Reactor Completion

LD1401141495 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] European Community experts have inspected the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant in line with the decision reached by the G-7 leadership Milan meeting. Their principal task was three-fold, namely: to assess the condition of the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant's generating set No. 6 readied for launch, to finalize the timetable of its stage-by-stage connection to the grid, and to determine the scale of participation in completing the construction of this giant ultramodern energy generator, the cost of which is estimated to have reached by now $2 billion dollars.

The experts concluded the EC could provide $5 million dollars for the work to be completed, with the Zaporozhye plant management in the very near future to decide on the application of the money.

National Affairs

Kuchma Wants To 'Work Together' With Council

LD1601220395 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We are now ready with a report by our correspondents Oleksandr Onisimov and Oleh Orlyankin on President Leonid Kuchma's working trip to Chernigov Oblast.

[Unidentified correspondent] President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma was met by Lieutenant General Volodymyr Antonets, the commander in chief of Ukraine's Air Force. The president viewed the fighting equipment of Ukraine's Air Force in Priluki, which is currently in an excellent condition and technically capable of performing most complicated tasks if necessary. The purpose of the trip was to attend the first large-scale enterprise in the world for the utilization of ammunition near the town of Ichnya, Chernigov Oblast. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Oleksandr Moroz, the chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament is holding a meeting today to discuss an alternative draft law on power. What do you, the president, think about it?

[Kuchma, laughing] I am generally confident that we are in store for some very hard work this year. If all we do is talk, nothing will come out of it, and we will continue to slide into the same abyss we are in today. As for the problem you mentioned, how long has the Supreme Council been around?

[Correspondent] Well, this one—a year.

[Kuchma] The previous one?

[Correspondent] Four years.

[Kuchma] So, for four years we have been talking, and we are still talking. As for Oleksandr Oleksandrovych [Moroz] meeting local council chairmen today—there is not a single country in the world where the president holds a meeting today, and the parliament chairman—tomorrow, the president says: Let us get down to work, and the council chairman says something else. That is why I say: they must work together. But while the local council chairman reports to the parliament chairman in the first instance, and to the president—in the second, there will be no order in this state. We must all realize this. The sooner we do, the better for the country.

[Correspondent] The last question, if I may. What is your attitude to the left-wingers' idea of holding a referendum on the restoration of the Soviet Union?

[Kuchma] You know that in my election campaign I was going to be the president of an independent country, Ukraine, and still, today, I will do my best to make it an economically strong country. That will take care of everything else. As for some political forces doing this, I think it is of no good to anyone, first of all to Ukraine. There is no need to rock the boat, which is on the verge of capsize. I want to warn everybody engaging in this sort of politics: Fellows, let us be friends. [end recording]

[Correspondent] During the working trip, President Kuchma viewed a shop and a kindergarten in the small village of Rudykivka, where he stopped to talk to local people.

[Begin recording] [Voices of local people]

[Kuchma] I am saying that we have been talking for four years. According to our laws and the Constitution, power today belongs to the Supreme Council, and what did we get from it?

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[Unidentified voices] Nothing, we have nothing.

[Kuchma] Four hundred and fifty incapable people. Collective irresponsibility.

[Female voice] Oh, heavens.

[Male voice] Nothing to buy. We have elected a president. When the power is in his hands, everything will be fine.

[Kuchma] I want you to support me. I am practically confident now that I will probably have to resort to a poll of some kind. You will see, as the parliament begins its session tomorrow...

[Female voice, interrupting] I do not watch it. My television is not working. [laughter] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Kuchma Blasts Moroz Over Power Bill

LD1601200195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1850 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chernigov Oblast [no date as received]—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has criticized the conference of heads of oblast councils in Kiev held on 16 January and organized by Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz. Replying to a question from journalists on his attitude to this event, Kuchma asserted that the parliament chairman was not aspiring toward cooperation as regards the adoption of the law "On power" and was trying to act independently. The president stressed that so long as the councils were subordinated to the chairman of the Supreme Council and only "to a certain extent to the president," there would be no order in the state.

Moroz on Local Self-Government Law

LD1601162495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 16 Jan—"The president and I interpret the problem of strengthening the vertical structure of executive power in Ukraine in different ways. I believe that to strengthen it and to demarcate the functions of executive and representative authorities does not mean increasing the functions of one branch of power at the expense of the other," Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz stated at a consultation of chairmen of oblast, town and rayon councils of people's deputies on 16 January.

According to him, "parliament evidently made a mistake" in not adopting the draft law 'On state power and local self-government' in its first reading, the provisions of which had been coordinated by representatives of the president and the Supreme Council, and instead taking as a basis the initial draft law submitted by President Leonid Kuchma.

In Oleksandr Moroz's opinion, the Supreme Council should adopt the law "'On local councils and local self-government' without fail", because it describes in detail the functions of local bodies of power. "This model does not violate the existing system of power and at the same time strengthens the executive branch of power," he believes.

As a possible mechanism for adopting both of the above-mentioned laws, Oleksandr Moroz proposed that they be examined in their second and third reading so that the clauses in the final versions of the laws do not contradict, but supplement each other. According to him, Kuchma has not expressed himself against such a mechanism.

This proposal will be examined today by the Supreme Council presidium and at Oleksandr Moroz's meeting with the heads of the parliament groups and groupings.

Develops Bill To Change Constitution

WS1701095395 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Oleksander Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, has announced that together with his advisors he had developed a draft law on the changes to the Constitution of Ukraine that are directly connected to the separation of state powers. "New provisions are implanted very cautiously in order not to ruin the constitutional field of Ukraine," he said. The bill may later be considered by the parliament. The chairman believes that the draft presidential version of the same law is gaining supremacy over the judicial branch to the president, which hardly corresponds to a practice of the developed industrial countries.

Nationalists Oppose Campaign To Restore USSR

LD1401184995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The main leadership of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists has issued a statement voicing the opinion that the decision to collect signatures in favor of holding a referendum on the restoration of the USSR could only be taken by people incapable of understanding the objective political realities of today. The political forces of Ukraine that took part in the so-called international congress Toward Integration Through Accord openly declared their hostile attitude toward the Ukrainian state and acted in violation of their own rules and pf the constitution currently in force. As a matter of fact, they exposed themselves as executors of the order placed by the financial-military oligarchy of the Russian empire, which is ready to struggle for its super-profits by every possible means.

The Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists expresses indignation at the fact that the power structures have not responded so far to this undisguised antistate and anticonstitutional action by leftwing forces and demands

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that the president, the Supreme Council, and the General Procurator's Office of Ukraine assess properly the action that leads to destabilizing the political situation in Ukraine, the statement by the main leadership of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists says.

Kuchma Revokes Crimean Resolutions

LD1501202595 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 14 Jan [date as received]—The president of Ukraine has issued an edict. In particular, it says: "The government of the Crimean Autonomous Republic has adopted a number of resolutions that do not conform to Ukrainian legislation. The Crimean Council of Ministers resolution of 16 November 1993 approves the identification badge of employees of the Crimean Internal Affairs Ministry's State Vehicle Inspection, picturing the Crimean state symbol, and also a clause on the badge. This decision contradicts the law of Ukraine "On the militia," in accordance with Article 7 of which the militia in Ukraine is a single system of bodies within the structure of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, including the militia of the Crimean Autonomous Republic. In accordance with Article 16 of this law, the militia has a single uniform and badges, confirmed by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 766 of 11 November 1994.

The Crimean Council of Ministers Resolution No. 82 of 16 June 1994 approves a provision "On the procedure for issuing licenses for the sale of goods, work, and services paid for with foreign currency on the territory of the Crimean Republic," and makes changes to the Crimean Council of Ministers Resolution No. 334 of 21 December 1993 "On increasing liability for violating the regulations on selling goods, work, and services paid for with foreign currency on the territory of the Crimean Republic." By adopting these acts the government of the Crimean Autonomous Republic has exceeded its remit, because in accordance with Article 5 of the decree of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers "On the system of currency regulation and currency control," the question of issuing licenses and conducting currency transactions has been placed under the jurisdiction of Ukraine's National Bank, and not the Crimean Republican Bank, as in the said acts of the Crimean Autonomous Republic's Government. Article 16 of the decree regulates the issue of liability for violating currency legislation, including violations of the regulations on selling goods paid for with foreign currency.

The Crimean Government's Resolution No. 138 of 25 August 1994 "On income tax on citizens" establishes progressive rates of the tax for citizens on Crimean territory in contradiction of the decree of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers of 26 December 1993 No. 13. This resolution also runs counter to Article 14 of the law of Ukraine "On the taxation system," in accordance with which income tax on citizens comes under the category of state-wide taxes, which are set for all of Ukraine's territory.

Proceeding from the above, and in accordance with Point 7.2 of Article 114/5 of Ukraine's Constitution, the president of Ukraine has resolved: "To revoke the above resolutions of the government of the Autonomous Crimean Republic as such that do not conform to Ukraine's legislation."

Defense Ministry on Draft, Budget, BSF

LD1601190595 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1645 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 16 Jan—As of today, conscription to the Armed Forces of Ukraine has been completed in full. The conscription plan achieved a 106 percent success rate despite the fact that in excess of 10,000 people tried to avoid the draft. This was reported at a regular Ministry of Defense briefing.

The beginning of the year in the Armed Forces was tense—conscripts took part in the beginner's training course and the military training reform is continuing, according to which all training establishments will be divided into four categories: From the military university and lower. The Academy of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is preparing for a certification for the right to be the state's highest military educational establishment.

The Army's economic problems were also discussed at the briefing. According to Oleksandr Kluban, the head of the Ministry of Defense press service, the Army receives only 14 percent of the funds that it requires if it is going to function fully from the state budget. Therefore it has to find sources from outside the budget and this is done most successfully in military transport aviation where last year it earned more than $1.5 million by cooperating with airlines. The airline companies owe the military another $3 million.

The economic problems of the fleet are also being overcome. A number of oblasts, in particular Ivano-Frankovsk, Poltava, and Zaporozhye are helping to provide food for the sailors. An agreement has been reached to the effect that every rayon of the above oblasts will buy apartments for officers of the Ukrainian Navy.

The Black Sea Fleet leadership is causing many problems for the sailors: Contrary to Ukrainian-Russian agreements, according to which Balaklava bay will become the base for the Ukrainian Navy, Admiral Baltin is transferring it to Sevastopol town council.

Commenting on press reports about the fact that a battalion of marines from the Black Sea Fleet is being prepared to be sent to Chechnya, Kluban said that it was difficult to judge the intentions of the Black Sea Fleet leadership, but that any movement of the fleet's troops should be agreed by the Ukrainian side and therefore one could officially announce that not a single subunit of the Black Sea Fleet is in Chechnya today.

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Khmelnitskaya Reactor Closes in 'Emergency'

LD1601214695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jan 16 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—The first reactor of the Khmelnitskaya nuclear power station was closed down at 9:11 this morning. The emergency stoppage system was activated as three main circulating pumps were disconnected from the mains due to a failure of the power supply of transducers, the Ukrainian State Committee for Use of Atomic Energy told Interfax-Ukraine.

The reasons for the accident are being investigated.

The head of the committee's department, Sergey Nazarenko, told Interfax-Ukraine that the reactor could well have been closed down due to "a false alarm."

No changes in the radioactive background near the nuclear power station was registered.

Prior to this, the reactor was intended to be closed down for planned repairs and maintenance of control and protection systems.

Decree 'Adjusts' Nuclear Safety Commission

LD1601172095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 16 Jan—The Commission for Nuclear Policy, set up by presidential decree within the composition of Ukraine's Council for National Security, will not be very different from the one in operation under the previous president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk. Yuriy Kostenko, minister of the environment and nuclear safety, expressed this opinion to UNIAN on 16 January.

Instead of determining strategic issues in the nuclear sector and making recommendations, the previous commission, the minister believes, in fact was engaged in providing arguments for the former president's positions on nuclear issues.

The composition of the new commission is now being formed, and it is important, Yuriy Kostenko is convinced, that experts join it to work on a permanent basis.

Commenting on the draft provision of the new commission for nuclear policy issues, proposed by Viktor Baryakhtar, vice president of Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences, Yuriy Kostenko noted that for the moment the commission is being recreated in the old version, although with some adjustments.

He named one of the particular faults in the draft of this provision as the fact that the possibility of duplication of the commission's functions by the Ukrainian Ministry of the Environment and Nuclear Safety was not excluded.

Yuriy Kostenko on the whole supported the setting up of consultative bodies, one of which should be the commission for nuclear policy issues within the composition of the National Security Council under the president of Ukraine, because this will facilitate the consolidation of the infrastructure of the nuclear sector, which in his opinion is fairly weakly developed.

Zaporizhzhya Plant Measures 'Nominal Capacity'

AU1701135295 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Jan 95 p 8

[Unattributed report: "All of the Zaporizhzhya Atomic Electric Power Plant Power Units Function"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All five power units at the Zaporizhzhya AES [Atomic Electric Power Plant] have been put to their nominal capacity. As the INTERFAX-UKRAYINA Agency was told, this became possible following the completion of the scheduled repairs with a partial replacement of fuel at the second power unit.

Preparations are about to be finished at the Zaporizhzhya AES for commissioning the sixth power unit.

According to the INTERFAX-UKRAYINA data, in December 1994, Ukraine's atomic plants accounted for 38.9 percent of the entire electricity produced in the country; hydroelectric power plants—for 4 percent; thermal plants—for 55 percent; and industrial reactors—for 2 percent.

Economic Affairs

Kuchma Issues State Planning Decree

WS1601121695 Kiev VYBIR in English 0914 GMT 16 Jan 95

[Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's decree "On State Planning of the Economic and Social Development of Ukraine for the Year 1995"; from the "Ukraine in Documents" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Taking into account the new economic situation, the inefficiency of the existing policy of state planning of the economic and social development of Ukraine, in order to bring the aforesaid policy in line with the economic development requirements in the transitional period, I herein decree:

1. To establish that the basic parameters of economic and social development of Ukraine for 1995 should be fixed pursuant to the state budget for 1995 approved by the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

On the basis of the state budget, the cabinet shall work out the draft state program of economic and social development for 1995 that specifies the chief macroeconomic indicators, macroeconomic balances and the plan of the government's actions in order to implement the aforesaid program. The draft will—within the space of one month after the approval of the state budget—be submitted for the legislature's consideration.

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The Ukrainian ministries and departments will elaborate, within the scopes of the fixed material and financial resources, the indicative plans of the corresponding sectors of national economy, that should be approved by the cabinet.

2. To regard as invalid the cabinet's resolution of August 25, 1994, No. 589 "On formation of the state budget for 1995".

3. This decree comes into effect on the day of signing.

[Signed] President of Ukraine L. Kuchma

[Dated] December 22, 1994.

No. 799/94

Economy Shows 'Little Sign of Recovery'

WS1601160895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 1936 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Report by Oleh Borsuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Ukraine's economy showed little sign of recovery during the first 11 months of 1994, according to recently released governmental statistics. In spite of the slight reinvigoration during the last several months, investments in the economy are falling, and industrial decline is still serious. This process is aggravated by a steep payment crisis and large budget deficit.

The country's industrial output increased by 1.1 percent in November over October, according to a report released by the Economics Department of the Cabinet of Ministers, but this indicator is worse than that posted in October and September, showing a month- by-month industrial production increase by 10 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively.

Industrial production declined by 28.8 percent in the first 11 months of 1994. However, this is the best indicator yet registered. The steepest drop in Ukraine's 1994 industrial production was in April, when it fell 39.1 percent.

Ukraine's gross domestic product fell by 24.1 percent between January and November 1994.

Consumer market prices are also rising. According to official statistics, inflation in November was 72.3 percent—the highest monthly figure in 1994. November inflation went through the roof, up from 22.6 percent in October, 7.3 percent in September and 2.1 percent in July.

During October and November, consumer prices increased by 211.2 percent, a greater than 184.8 percent hike in comparison to the first nine months of 1994.

The increase in inflation was primarily caused by the reduction of state subsidies to a number of industries, as well as cancellation of the fixed official exchange rate in late October. This, in turn, reduced state subsidies for energy purchases and increased final product prices.

Ukraine's foreign trade deficit improved slightly in the first 10 months of 1994, to $321.5 million, down from $464 million during the same period in 1993. The drop in the deficit was helped by increased exports to the non-CIS countries.

Commercial Banks Increase Capital in 1994

LD1601183195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Jan 16 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—Ukrainian commercial banks' average registered capital increased by nearly four times in 1994, from ECU 495,000 on January 1 1994 to ECU 2,300,000 at the end of the year (at the rate of 131,140 karbovantsi per one ECU).

The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) told Interfax-Ukraine that Ukrainian commercial banks' total registered capital amounted to ECU 504.6 million by December 23 1994. The average registered capital of Kiev-based commercial banks reached ECU 4.5 million and was nearly twice as higher as in the rest of the republic.

On January 1 1995, a total of 228 banks were legally operating in Ukraine, including two state-run, 169 joint-stock and 67 limited partnerships. A total of 219 banks had paid their registered capitals by January 1 1995.

Among the operating banks, there are 12 with partially foreign capital and one with entirely foreign capital.

A total of 115 banks have been granted the NBU license to perform transaction with foreign currencies.

Officials Forecast 1995 Unemployment Rate

LD1501222395 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1945 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [no dateline as received] According to the Employment Service's forecasts, the number of unemployed in Ukraine in 1995 could exceed 2.5 million. This was said by Volodymyr Yerasov, the director of the State Employment Center, at a meeting with journalists in Kiev.

According to his forecasts, mass redundancies will already begin in the first half of 1995.

According to information valid as of 1 January, 113,200 persons were officially unemployed in Ukraine. The level of hidden unemployment at enterprises and organizations stands at 3.4 million. Of this figure, 1.2 million persons were on forced leave for over a month, and more than 2 million persons have not worked for a full day or week.

In 1994, the amount of money spent on social payments for the unemployed was 14 billion karbovantsi. A total of

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500,000 people turned up at the Employment Service in search of work, of which 43 percent found work. A total of 129.7 trillion karbovantsi were spent on organizing retraining the adult population with the purpose of finding work for them, and 805 billion karbovantsi on creating 27,000 new jobs.

The total number of urban able-bodied people stands at 24 million and 18.7 million are employed in various branches of industry.

Deputy Predicts Lower Inflation in 1995

LD1301133595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—A roundtable at the World Bank mission to Ukraine on 12 January assessed various economic reform concepts in Ukraine.

Natalya Vitrenko, Supreme Council of Ukraine deputy and Socialist Party of Ukraine member, said: "What is being carried out in Ukraine is a strategy to destroy its economy and annihilate its people. It cannot be described as anything other than political genocide." The president of Ukraine has no action plan to be applied to the economy, while his report to the Supreme Council is just "a philosophy, intentions," she added.

The state sector of the economy, in Natalya Vitrenko's view, should not be ruined. Instead, parallel forms of ownership should be sought. There should coexist fixed, regulated, and free prices. Apart from that, the state should control the banks and regulate the economy.

Ukrainian Deputy Economy Minister Volodymyr Naumenko brushed aside the accusations that the actions taken by the government in October and November of last year led to a catastrophe in Ukraine's economy. Volodymyr Naumenko estimated that the retail price index in December 1993 stood at 190.8 percent compared with the same period of 1992 and in December 1994, 128.4 per cent compared with December 1993.

Volodymyr Naumenko named the following as the fundamental principles of organizing an effective economy in Ukraine: the presence of the owner in Ukraine; the need for competition and gradual transition to an open economy; a switch to strict budgetary, financial, and monetary policies; and the availability of an economic incentive to work.

Volodymyr Lanovyy, director of the Market Reforms Center and Supreme Council deputy, said that to carry out qualitative changes, the economy of Ukraine needs free trade, a change in the relationship between state authorities and businesses, and a market system of financial and monetary circulation where the vertical type of funding, with the payments made by the state, is at a par with the alternatives. State power must be restructured to transform the economy, he added.

Volodymyr Lanovyy forecast that 1995 will be no less inflationary than the previous year, as "we have delayed the indexation of fixed assets and there are no depreciation funds in industry."

Ministries Provide Foreign Investment Details

WS1301111495 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0800 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Unattributed article from the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Between January and September 1994, foreign investments into the Ukrainian economy are estimated at $292 million, which is $75 million more than during the same period in 1993. The largest investments were made by the United States ($63 million), Germany ($55 million), and Great Britain ($20 million). At the same time, Ukrainian investments into economies of foreign countries increased during this period by $3.5 million, totalling $13.5 million. The largest investments were made into the economy of Austria—over $5 million, Russia—nearly $3 million, Switzerland—more than $2 million, and Hungary—nearly $2 million. The fuel, chemical, and machine-building industries were among the basic sectors into which these investments were made. This information was given by the Statistics Ministry, Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Finance, and the National Bank of Ukraine at the request of the Supreme Council Budget Committee.

Official Discusses Monetary Reform

LD1201185695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 12 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] The time of monetary reform and introduction of Ukrainian national currency, grivna, into circulation has not been determined yet, presidential adviser on macroeconomics and member of the Commission on Monetary Reform Anatoliy Galchinskiy reported in an interview with Interfax.

He pointed out that currently preparation for the reform is underway. Ukraine's government warns the republic's citizens beforehand that there will be a gradual exchange of karbovantsi for a new currency. According to Galchinskiy, the rate of the upcoming exchange can be called only approximately, about 10,000 to 20,000 karbovantsy per 1 grivna.

Chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine board Viktor Yushchenko has also deviated from any answer regarding the time of the monetary reform and possible exchange rate, however, he noted that introduction of grivna would be possible only after stabilization of the country's financial system.

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As Interfax reported earlier, the first part of the Ukrainian national currency with face value from 1 to 50 grivny was published in 1992 by the Canadian firm Canadian Banknote Company.

In March 1993 Ukraine opened its own banknote factory in Kiev which was supposed to published the remained part of banknotes within 1994. However, due to the absence of necessary equipment the factory started its work only late last year and publishes only securities.

Currently Ukraine uses temporary monetary units, karbovantsi, in circulation, they were introduced in January 1992. As of January 11 official rate of karbovanets, which was established by the National Bank of Ukraine in accordance with the results of the last trades on the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange is 104,000 karbovantsi per dollar. IF Note: The report on programs of radical transformations in economy submitted by President Leonid Kuchma to the parliament last October indicates that Ukraine's leadership views implementation of the monetary reform as a necessary measure of economic stabilization. Kuchma also announced about his intention "to defend principal positions in accordance with which monetary reform cannot be postponed endlessly." The report said that a fixed rate of grivna with respect to one of the foreign currencies would be introduced since the beginning of the monetary reform, circulation of foreign currency on Ukraine's territory is prohibited.

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Belarus

Lukashenka Leaves for China Trip

LD1601171495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk Jan 16 (TASS)—Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka flew to China on an official visit on Monday at the invitation of the Chinese leaders.

Lukashenka is expected to meet with Chairman of the Chinese Republic Jiang Zemin, Prime-Minister Li Peng and chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Chinese Assembly of People's Deputies Qiao Shi. The two sides will discuss prospects for Belarusian- Chinese economic, scientific, cultural and educational cooperation.

Heads of the Belarusian ministries and departments are expected to meet with their Chinese counterparts.

Lukashenka Appoints Aide; Former KGB

LD1301185895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 13 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Jan 13 (INTERFAX-West)—Belarusian President Alyaksander Lukashenka has appointed lawyer Ural Latypov his foreign policy aide.

Latypov, 44, a doctor of law, used to work at the KGB, which he left with a colonel's rank. Until now he has been deputy head of Belarus's National Security Institute, where he also holds an international law chair. He is a graduate of the law department of Kazan University in Russia's republic of Tatarstan.

In 1993, Latypov headed a team who worked on principles for Belarus's neutrality.

Economics Seen To Hinder NATO Cooperation

LD1301185995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 13 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Jan 13 (INTERFAX-WEST)—Belarus's economic problems caused the former Soviet republic to be the last country to join NATO's Partnership for Peace scheme, a Belarussian deputy foreign minister said.

"Belarus will be able to develop cooperation with NATO only in areas which don't call for substantial financial expenditure," Petr Belyayev told Interfax on Friday.

"Belarus would simply be unable to finance many of the suggested forms of cooperation with NATO," he continued. "Within the framework of Partnership for Peace, Minsk is so far only ready for international exchange of information and participation in joint exercises as an observer."

Also for financial reasons, "the duties of the permanent Belarussian representative at NATO will be entrusted to the military attache of the Belarussian embassy in Brussels," Belyayev said.

One of the leaders of Belarus's opposition Popular Front said on Friday that Partnership for Peace membership would be "of no use at all" to the republic.

"Belarus could earn itself a sizable capital, not only political, if it were the only European state not to have signed the program," Valentin Golubev told Interfax in Minsk. This "would enable Belarus to obtain from the West hard currency funds that had been promised for the destruction of weapons under the treaty on the reduction of conventional armaments in Europe. By refusing to join the program we would remind the West that Belarus didn't have enough money to carry through that operation," Golubev said.

Deputies Adopt 1995 Budget, Discuss Media

WS1701123295 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Belarusian Supreme Soviet session continues its work in Minsk today. Over 260 people's deputies participate in its work. A draft law on the 1995 state budget of the Republic was discussed at the morning session. The document was adopted after minor redrafting. One hundred and fifty nine deputies have voted for it. A resolution on the fulfillment of the 1994 budget has also been adopted.

Deputies are going to discuss personnel issues, the minimum wage rate, and the implementation of the resolution on (?reflecting) the course of the session by mass media. The afternoon session is continuing, and they are drafting the last document.

Government Sets Up Foreign Financing Department

WS1701095195 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] By decision of the government, a department of foreign financing and international cooperation was established within the Cabinet of Ministers. The new structural subdivision was charged with very broad tasks. It was instructed to coordinate work pertaining to attracting foreign investments and to rendering foreign assistance to the Republic. The governmental resolution on this issue includes a variety of other items related to the activity of the new structural subdivision.

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Supreme Soviet Passes Media Law

LD1301191195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Jan 13 (INTERFAX-WEST)—Belarus's parliament has passed a law on the mass media.

"The State regards the mass media as a basis for the exercise by citizens of the republic of their constitutional right to freedom of speech and information," the text of the law, passed on Friday, says in part.

The law makes no provision for the creation or funding of censor organizations or posts. A media company may be suspended or closed down only by decision of its founder(s) or by court order.

The proportion of advertisements cannot exceed 25 percent of the entire material in a state-run newspaper or magazine or 30 percent of the material in a nonstate one, unless they are advertising publications. Advertisement programs cannot make up more than 10 percent of the broadcasting time on state radio and television.

A media company does not have to name its sources of information, nor can it name any sources without their consent. It cannot be prosecuted for publishing libelous information if such has been obtained from official reports, news agencies or government press services.

Popular Front Challenges Press Crack-Down

WS1601121195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0617 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no datline as received] A collection of signatures to an appeal to the Constitutional Court, which was initiated by MP [Member of Parliament] Syarhey Navumchyk, a member of the faction of the Belarusian Popular Front, completed on January 13. As Mr. Navumchyk informed a BELAPAN correspondent, the appeal was signed by 77 MP's and will be submitted to the Court next week. The MP's suggest that the Constitutional Court should examine the actions of the president and state officials who banned the publication of Antonchyk's report in respect of their conformity with Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution. According to the deputies, the Constitutional Court could assess the "Belaruskiy Dom Druku" printing house's refusal to renew the printing contracts in 1995 with four independent newspapers, and the concentration of the mass media under the authority of the president.

Moldova

Snegur Reviews Presidential Term

AU1601145895 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/1/1995—President Mircea Snegur was interviewed by the MOLDPRESS agency. In the interview, Snegur analyzed the evolutions in the Republic of Moldova for the three years after his being elected as Moldovan president. "In these three years we have undertaken concrete measures to maintain Moldova's territorial integrity, not admitting its federalization. We can draw the conclusion that the achievements we have in the dialogue with the Tiraspol leaders will permit us to resolve completely this issue," said Snegur. According to him, "the need for a national army and police is evident for every citizen who has a clear understanding of the fact that we live in a politically unstable zone. In this situation, as any other country of the world, we tend toward neutrality, and the joining of the Partnership for Peace is nothing else than a fulfillment of the people's wish to have a guarantee for its security." Snegur says that "our country can be better known in the world, first by pursuing a dynamic, well-devised, and firm external policy." In this context, he referred to "the need to improve Moldova's presentation overseas" as stringent. "It is not normal," said Snegur, "that up to now we do not have our own system for informing the international public opinion about our country." Referring to the criticisms he is subject to, the Chisinau leader said that "unfortunately, the opposition is not yet ready to launch correct, constructive, and founded criticisms." Snegur stated that he is not inclined to draw an analogy between the Dniester conflict of 1992 and the events in Chechnya, because "the circumstances are completely different. In our case, the conflict has been caused from the exterior by certain pro-imperial forces. The Moldovan- Russian convention of July 21 was the logical sequel of many rounds of negotiations. It promised to stop the bloodshed." At the end of the interview with the MOLDPRESS agency, Mircea Snegur expressed his belief that "two favorable years in agriculture will enable us to overcome all difficulties and to raise the population's living standards."

Chisinau Hopes To Join Council of Europe

AU1701124995 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 16/1/1995—After the Kremlin's political failure in the Chechen campaign, Chisinau has got the rare occasion to take the initiative in promoting its own approach on settling the Dniester dispute. The veto right of the Russian diplomats and military seems to have diminished. The White House's invitation Mircea Snegur received from Bill Clinton was already interpreted by the Moscow press as sign of returning to the four-party mechanism for solving the Dniester conflict. In addition, Chisinau obtained an indisputable moral support from the Council of Europe experts group. They said that the Tiraspol republic is a waxworks exhibition with outdated characters and that the slow progress in the negotiations with Tiraspol is absolutely justifiable. Even if the Chisinau authorities do not control the eastern districts meaning that they do not assume the responsibility of human rights violations, Moldova's joining the Council

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of Europe cannot be obstructed, said the experts. "We will not allow that Moldova be blackmailed with not adopting the status for the eastern districts," said Lord Finsberg, one of the four rapporteurs on Moldova who were members of the experts group. It seems that this warning was destined to the Chisinau opposition too that supplied the experts with many examples of human rights violations, including those confessional (the issue of the Bessarabian Church). In Lord Finsberg's opinion, the persecutions to which the servants of the much disliked church, supporters of the term "Romanian language" or the reporters not complying with the official position could be subject, can be regarded as human rights violations only after thorough investigations offering undeniable facts. Also, it was pointed out that Moldova's joining the Council of Europe cannot be hindered on grounds that after the admission of a state to the Council of Europe, it will have acquired new means for resolving the issues pertaining to the human rights.

The experts displayed readiness to apply the same loyalty scheme to Russia. Even though Chisinau was left with the impression that Moscow can possibly face the 14th Army withdrawal as a condition for joining the council of Europe, the experts said that the accord signed is already a quite credible argument in this respect. Even if the request to ratify the accord already signed is in the position to doubt the frankness of the Kremlin's intentions to pull out the army from the Moldovan eastern districts, the Council of Europe's harsh treatment of Russia will not suit Chisinau either. If Moscow were not admitted in Council of Europe until its withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldova's eastern districts, the army would have reasons to insist on definitive settlement of the Dniester conflict. The Kremlin, in its turn, would hold the right to transform the delay of Dniester's being granted the special status in a condition for Moldova's joining the Council of Europe. To anticipate these complications the Council of Europe experts displayed willingness to ignore the preliminary conditions in the case of Chisinau as well as Moscow's.

In this situation the Moldovan officials felt encouraged to declare that in 1995 Moldova could become a member of the Council of Europe.

Council of Europe Delegation Concludes Visit

LD1301205195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By correspondent Valeriy Demidetski]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau January 13 TASS—A delegation of the Council of Europe (CE) ended its visit to Moldova today. The delegation familarized itself with the situation in moldova and democratization processes on the eve of the discussions on questions concerning Moldova's entry into this European forum.

Until quite recently we had been regarding the Russian Army's presence in Moldova as a serious hindrance to Russia's entry into the Council of Europe, but after signing an appropriate document this view has changed, David Atkinson, head of the CE delegation said in a press conference held after completion of the visit. According to the general view of the experts, the situation in Moldova is showing improvement, he said.

Snegur Denies Creation of Russian Base

LD1301135195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], Jan 13 (INTERFAX)—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has denied allegations on the likely creation of a Russian military base on the basis of the 14th army deployed in Transdniestria [Dniester region]. In an interview with journalists in Kishinev he said that such step is unrealistic since this is forbidden by the country's Constitution.

Snegur is sure that the Moldovan-Russian agreement on the pull- out of the 14th Russian army from the republic will be implemented because the present Russian authorities are in favor of its compliance.

The Moldovan president believes that three years during which the Russian armaments and military technology are to be re-deployed back to Russia, are a realistic and sufficient period.

Russians Begin Inspection of 14th Army

AU1701130195 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1940 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 13/1/1995—A commission from the Russian Defence Ministry started inspection of the 14th Army today, the Army Headquarters has reported.

The arrival of a special check team headed by Deputy Defence Minister Konstantin Kobets has been postponed, so far. The Headquarters staff named as groundless the earlier wide-spread rumours about the commission's intention to dismiss Aleksandr Lebed. For a proof, they referred to Kobets' explanations and refutations in the press, which suggest that the deputy minister had no such intentions.

As for Aleksandr Lebed himself, he said to journalists Thursday night he was aware of the inspection and its goals, but he could not say anything about his possible dismissal.

"It's up to Moscow to decide. I am not afraid of retirement. I have many talents, and I am not going to become unemployed. The only thing is, I will never be involved in politics," he stressed.

General Lebed on 'Normal' Army Inspections

LD1401203295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester region is fundamentally a redeployment of the equipment and weaponry,

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not of the personnel, Moldovan Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschiy has explained. He said the army personnel can stay on the territory of the republic. May I remind you that Moldova's Foreign Minister Mikhai Popov previously stated that the servicemen of the 14th Army could continue serving in the republic's national army.

Meanwhile, a commission of the Russian Defense Ministry's rear services has begun an inspection of 14th Army subunits. The arrival in the Dniester region of General Konstantin Kobets, chief army inspector, has been postponed. Rumors are circulating in the army itself, however, to the effect that the commission intends to dismiss General Aleksandr Lebed from his post of commander, INTERFAX reports.

The commander himself, however, makes no connection between the inspection and political statements he has made about the Russian leadership.

[Begin Lebed recording] The commission is a scheduled one, this is the third day it has been working, there is no (?interventionism) it is all quite normal inspection work. We would not wish any politics to be introduced into the activities of men, officers, and generals who are working normally. This has nothing to do with politics. I knew the commission was coming a long time ago, more than two months ago; it is a scheduled commission. On Monday [16 January] Army General Kobets, deputy defense minister, is due to fly in. He has three tasks: To check the army's manning level and its capability to fulfill the tasks it has been given, to check out progressive experience in troop training, and to verify that the defense minister's directives have been implemented. There may well be a fourth, fifth, and sixth task, too, I would not exclude that, but for the moment that is how it is. [end recording]

Military Industry Converts to Civilian Products

AU1401202795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/1/1995—Currently, the implementation of the project on conversion of the Moldovan military enterprises is in the phase of scientific investigation, institutional and technological analyses, Marian Lupu, head of the main department for coordination of technical assistance and nonrenewable resources at the Ministry of Economics, told BASA. This project is financed by the European Union via the "TACIS" Program of ECU 1,050,000. This program stipulates the re- specialization of six economic entities currently specializing in the production of control devices for flights and movements on land and sea, electronic apparatus and other products. Lupu also said that the firms CECOFORMA, Tomson and ESA that won the right to implement the project have already installed equipment not exceeding in value 15-20 percent of the allotted amount. BASA learned from Renat Zagarski, deputy head of the Machine Building Department of the Ministry of Industry, that a group of experts from Belgium, [words indistinct] are studying the possibilities of establishing a series of joint ventures with the six enterprises of the former military complex: Sigma, Semna I, Topaz, Mezon, Micron and Raut. Also, the directors of the mentioned economic entities will leave for the West to establish ties with specialized firms.

Official Signs Oil Deal With Tehran

AU1401201595 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/1/1995—Moldova and Iran have concluded a contract for the delivery of two million tonnes of oil as it was stipulated in the Moldovan-Iranian agreement a month ago, BASA learned from Valeriu Bobutac chairman of the Interministerial Commission for Relations Between Moldova and Iran. Yesterday evening, Bobutac arrived from Tehran. Bobutac pointed out that the Iranian side will offer Moldova a range of advantageous conditions for the payment of the oil cost as well as for its transportation to the oil refineries in Constanta, Romania and to Odessa, Ukraine. The minister of economics said that "this huge sum of $2,000,000,000 will be paid off in installments" and after the delivery of oil only. Every oil lot to be delivered will be worth $12 million. The imports of oil, said Bobutac, will be paid off in hard currency as well as by delivery of goods. As to the beginning of these deliveries, Bobutac said that "now everything is up to us." At the end of January a group of Iranian experts is to arrive in Moldova to perfect the mechanism for enforcing the signed agreements. "We have also signed a convention with four Iranian ministries regarding the establishment of a series of joint ventures in industry and the agricultural sector," said Bobutac.

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Kazakhstan

Resolution Adopted on Sending Aid To Chechnya

LD1301184995 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Cabinet of Ministers meeting was held today, chaired by Akezhan Kazhegeldin, prime minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan. They examined a draft law on the republic's budget for 1995. Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Sobolev Minister delivered a report. The issue will continue to be discussed on 16 January. The meeting adopted a resolution for sending urgent humanitarian aid to those who are effected in the war in Chechenistan [Chechnya] Republic.

Communists Support Chechnya Against Russia

LD1501150795 Almaty EKSPRESS in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Is it only the communists who know a way out of the conflict?

Representatives of the left-wing of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan have given EKSPRESS a statement concerning the events in the Chechen Republic. The statement interprets the events as a war by imperial circles against the freedom-loving and free Chechnya and compares them to Afghanistan.

The left-wing representatives claims that the events in Russia will be directly reflected in our republic, and they declare support for the national liberation struggle of the Chechen people and the right of the Chechen people to self-determination, up to and including secession, and they call on all honorable citizens and all parties and movements to start a powerful campaign of support.

An EKSPRESS correspondent was interested to learn from a representative of the wing what this statement meant, when virtually all national and cultural centers in all regions of the republic have expressed their opinions and the president had unequivocally spoken his mind.

Viktor Zhiliba, the representative of the party, a communist deputy in the regional council, a young man, considers that communists have the right to express their opinions. The communists addressed this statement to all the local media but it was not published anywhere, despite the involvement of a regional council deputy in the statement. This, Zhiliba believes, indicates the level of glasnost.

Of course, communists, just like everybody, within the framework of the law really do have this right, but they are once again trotting out the same old repertoire: No compromising and scathing slogans. If only everything was so easy to resolve....

Presidential Edict on Foreign Economic Actions

LD1601140995 Almaty KAZAKHSTANKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Decree by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan on liberalizing foreign economic activities

With the aim of further liberalizing foreign economic activities and creating equal conditions for all economic entities in the republic of Kazakhstan, I decree:

1. It is established that all economic entities in the Republic of Kazakhstan have the right to carry out foreign economic activities, including intermediary operations, with the exception of deals involving the export and import of strategically vital resources. The list and objects of export and import are defined by the Kazakhstan Cabinet of Ministers.

2. The Kazakhstan Cabinet of Ministers will:

Reduce the list of goods (works, services) which are subject to quotas and licenses;

determine the procedures for the export and import of goods and services, including those in line with the state's international obligations and inter-government agreements, as well as for strategically vital resources;

within a month, together with the Kazakhstan National Bank, submit proposals on introducing a combined control system supervised by the custom houses and banks for exports, imports, and receipts in foreign currency in the republic, which will allow banks to follow the synchronization of the transport of goods across the customs border of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as follow receipts of the corresponding payments.

3. The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan is given the right, in exceptional cases, to grant exporters, under guarantees from authorized banks, a deferment in the payment of customs duties of up to 3 months, starting from the day of shipment for goods exported under conditions of tax credits, with payment of interest according to the official refinancing rates of the National Bank of Kazakhstan. [passage omitted]

5. This decree comes into force on 1 February 1995.

[Signed] Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Almaty, 11 January 1995.

Edict To Consolidate Tenge as Sole Legal Tender

LD1501100595 Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Edict of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan on measures to develop a currency market in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 1995:

With a view to consolidating the tenge as the sole legal means of payment and improving the currency control system, I decree:

1. The obligation to sell 50 percent of revenue from exports of goods (or work or services) for freely convertible currency, as well as currencies of states of the former

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USSR (as listed by the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan), at the Kazakh Interbank Stock Exchange via authorized banks, in accordance with the procedure established by Edict No. 1484 of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan on urgent measures to develop an exchange market in the Republic of Kazakhstan of 31 December 1993, is to be retained in 1995.

2. The conduct of retail trade (and work and services) for cash foreign currency across the whole territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to end from 16 January 1995, except for trade (and work and services, including ticket sales to foreign citizens) in the transit zones of airports and seaports as well as railway and air transport bodies involved in international passenger transport. This procedure extends to the activities of all residents and nonresidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, unless otherwise stipulated by international agreements of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan will, within one month:

—Define the enterprises and organizations that have the right to sell goods (or work or services) on the restricted list for foreign currency in the transit zones of airports, seaports, and on the railways and airways;

—Bring earlier decisions on currency market regulation and organization of retail trade (work and services) for cash foreign exchange into line with this edict;

—Discontinue the practice of extending direct privileges with regard to the obligatory sale of a proportion of foreign currency revenues.

4. The National Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan will, within two weeks:

—Annul the validity of licences previously granted for carrying out retail trade (or work or services) for cash foreign currency;

—Draft and approve a payments procedure involving credit and debit cards across the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

5. This edict will come into force from the day it is published.

Nursaltan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, 9 January 1995.

Government Reaches Settlement With Miners

LD1701094595 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1525 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference was held at the Cabinet of Ministers today.

[Unidentified correspondent] After long negotiations both sides—namely, the government and representatives from the Karagandaugol and Ekibastuzkomir companies—arrived at a compromise settlement. After a meeting with Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, (Yertisbay Aliyev), first deputy power and coal minister; (Lyalya Umarova), economic director of the Ekibastuzugol joint-stock company; (Vasiliy Telnoy), economic director of the Karagandaugol state holding company; and Supreme Council deputies Boris Marinushkin, Vitaliy Roze, and Musabek Isayev read for reporters a draft resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers on additional measures to stabilize the coal industry.

This is a truly unprecedented decision which the government has made for the first time ever. The document provides for specific measures to get the coalfields out of their critical situation. The government will assist by giving credits to enterprises which consume coal, electricity, and thermal energy. It is planned to grant a year's grace in paying outstanding debts owed to the budget in 1994, and to permit part of the payment to the budget to be made in the form of coal deliveries to the state.

A number of instructions are also to be given to the state administration bodies. In particular, the ministries of power and coal, transport and communications, and industry and trade have been requested to draw up a general agreement between themselves on joint action to stabilize prices and tariffs and to reduce mutual nonpayments.

The miners' representatives and the deputies expressed satisfaction with the results of this cooperation with the leadership of the Cabinet of Ministers in search of acceptable decisions. In their speeches they emphasized that the government had for the first time taken steps to create real opportunities for the commodity-producers to work properly. The participants in the meeting think that bold and original decisions were taken. These decisions could be applied to Kazakhstan's economy as a whole.

On Saturday [14 January] Ekibastuzkomir resumed its normal rate of coal deliveries. The situation in the Karaganda coalfields is also getting back to normal. Shipments of coal are taking place. (Yertisbay Aliyev) emphasized that there is no longer any need for panic.

During the conversation with reporters the idea was expressed that conflicts between government, trade unions, and miners must be avoided in future. There is a need to seek dialogue and compromise. We can only approve of this mutual understanding.

Deputy Premier on Work of New Government

LD1601124895 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITZ in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 2

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The deputy prime minister is fond of growing raspberries. The Akezhan Kazhegeldin government honeymoon is ending. We asked First Deputy Prime Minister Nigmatzhan Isingarin to talk about the results of the first hundred days of its work.

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[Correspondent] Nigmatzhan Kabatayevich, what are the assets and liabilities for this period?

[Isingarin] In brief, the stabilization of production at one level, the growth in wages, the stabilization of the tenge rate, the reduction in government wage and pension debts, the increase in wages over the last three months in excess of the growth in prices. All of these can be listed as assets. As for the liabilities, these include the crisis of nonpayments between enterprises which has not been overcome, the polarization of wages (the increase in the gap between wages in the production and nonproduction spheres), the constant growth in prices, and the continuing problem of nonpayments of wages in the budget-funded sphere.

[Correspondent] Do you not consider that our existing system of administrative punishment of state directors for serious faults in their work is too soft? Maybe, as in Uzbekistan, they should be imprisoned for nonpayments?

[Isingarin] If the solution of the problem was to put some leaders into prison and then everything would begin to work perfectly, we would have already done so. But there are no fewer criminals in any country just because they are occasionally imprisoned. Here we need permanent painstaking work on organizing effective management of the economy, on fighting inflation, on supporting the producers of goods. New legislative acts are also necessary...

[Correspondent] But there is another side of the coin. In the civil code adopted by parliament before the New Year, the regulation of the activities of so-called trust companies is first mentioned. Previously, accountability for deceiving investors was not envisioned in the republic's economic, administrative, or criminal legislation. And tens of thousands of deceived people can be found in Alma-Ata [Almaty] alone. Where were the government, the law enforcement agencies, and the financial bodies looking? And is it not possible to speak about a certain responsibility of the government for what happened?

[Isingarin) The government, undoubtedly, is responsible for imperfections in legislation. But, on the other hand, there is too little time to adopt all the laws and resolutions which lay the foundations for the new economic relations. For this we need at least two or three years.

It is another matter that both banks and other financial bodies and law enforcement agencies should have not only followed the situation around trusts from the first day of their appearance (which was certainly not done), but also constantly give information to the population warning people against cooperation with such companies. And once again we encounter shortfalls in legislation. For example, I know that when Smagulov [head of investment company which promised huge dividends which ended in collapse like the Russian MMM company] was invited to the city administration and asked how he was going to pay the promised dividends, he said: Sorry, but what business is it of yours? Have you the legal right to interfere if people lend me money?

[Correspondent] But this means that it was already necessary then to prepare this legal basis...

[Isingarin] You know perfectly well that we do not adopt laws quickly. The following factor should also be taken into consideration: Unfortunately, the present mentality of our people is such that they prefer to believe those who promise them obviously unreal interest rates on their investments, than the government which dissuades them from this.

[Correspondent] In any case, we have a precedent for the mass deception of people. Are we protected from a similar, new type of business, which if it appears tomorrow will bring us new financial losses? Swindlers do not wait while the necessary laws are adopted...

[Isingarin] It was not only ordinary people who invested their money in Smagulov, there were also about 300 enterprises, among which were state budget-funded organizations. All hoped that the fairy-tale profits would begin to flow to them by themselves. Today, by the way, there exist masses of funds masquerading as charities. But has anyone checked where and on what their money is spent? And there is no such thing as a free lunch, everything has to be paid for. [passage omitted]

Kyrgyzstan

UNDP Signs Media Development Program Document

LD1401095195 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A draft UN program for developing the media during the transition period was signed in Bishkek today. The project is planned for two years, with a total budget of $759,000. All the funds will go to support the media of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

On behalf of the government, the document was signed by Deputy Prime Minister Hosmanakun Ibraimov, and Erzhan Murat, the permanent representative of the UN Development Program. [passage omitted]

Russians' Chances of Entering Parliament 'Extremely Slim'

MM1301142195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jan 95 First Edition p 6

[Report by Anatoliy Galunichev: "Russians Pushed Aside"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] President Askar Akayev has expressed concern at "indigenous" candidates' predominance in the coming parliamentary elections.

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Some 900 of the 1,054 contenders are Kirghiz. There are just 57 Russians, 50 Uzbeks, and 10 Ukrainians. And nonindigenous nationals have extremely slim chances of getting into the supreme legislative organ—the Zhogorku Kenesh [as transliterated].

We would remind you that last June Askar Akayev published an edict designed to slow down the Russian exodus from Kyrgyzstan.

However, no real steps have yet been taken. And the number of Russians leaving the mountainous area over the last three years has already topped 200,000.

President Presents Amendments to Constitution

LD1301184495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, Jan 12 (INTERFAX)—Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev has presented changes and amendments to the republic's Constitution prepared by the Constitutional Conference for a nationwide discussion which will last till February 10. On Friday [13 January] Kyrgyzstan's republican mass media published the decree on this issue and the text of major changes and amendments to the existing Constitution.

The document says that a specially formed expert working group should sum up results of the discussion and proposals of the citizens not later than February 25 after that the final text of amendments will be submitted to the republic's new parliament for confirmation.

Tolobek Omuraliyev, leader of the expert group in charge of the nationwide discussion, reported to Interfax that all the changes and amendments to the Constitution primarily concern creation of a two-chamber parliament. In his words, the articles related to authorities of the parliament, which will be made up of legislative chamber (35 deputies) and chamber of people's representatives (70 deputies), will be completely re-written. Elections to the new parliament will be held on February 5.

Introduction of the notion on communal property is another change in the Constitution which is necessary for the development of local self-rule, he noted.

The republic also plans to introduce a new collegial juridical body, the Supreme Juridical Office, which will unite all kinds of juridical power, the Constitutional Court, Kyrgyzstan's Supreme Court and Court of Arbitration.

An article on private property on land and an article which will grant status of the state language to the Russian language are supposed to be introduced into the Constitution.

There will be several changes in the Constitution which concern authorities of Kyrgyzstan's government and president. In particular, head of the state can form major trends in the state's foreign and domestic policy. In accordance with the present Constitution this is the prerogative of the Kyrgyz parliament. If the amendments are adopted, the parliament will confirm head of the government on the proposal of the president and then he will independently form his new cabinet. At present the parliament's consent is needed to appoint each minister.

Nationwide Discussion of Constitution Begins

LD1301120795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek January 13 TASS—The people of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] have begun a nationwide discussion of the fundamental law of the country. A decree by President Askar Akayev has been promulgated today which orders all news media to start publishing a draft of additions and amendments to the Constitution of the republic.

Simultaneously all state structures must organize a discussion of the draft in working collectives and places of residence.

Proposals aimed at changing the fundamental law will be systematized and submitted to a working group of the Constitutional Assembly—a social body consisting of representatives of political parties and influential public organisations.

The draft must be elaborated and submitted to the Constitutional Assembly which will insert amendments and additions to the Constitution not later than February 25.

The fundamental law of the Kirghiz Republic was adopted on May 5, 1993. Its authors include well-known scholars from Russia and Kirgizia. An expertise was made by jurists from the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan.

However, already a year later some people began affirming that the country was not ready for a democracy in a Western style which was included in the Constitution, and that a transitional period was necessary. This viewpoint was supported by Askar Akayev.

Prime Minister Plans No Grain Imports in 1995

LD1601183895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 16 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 8 (751): compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyrgyzstan whose last year's grain yield ran at 1.54 million tonnes plans no grain imports in 1995, Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov told Interfax. He said the country has all what it takes to be self-reliant for grain by 1996.

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The prime minister spoke of grain prices being set free and the grain producers selling to the state at market prices.

He put the country's annual needs for grain at 450,000-480,000 tonnes with an estimated 60,000 tonnes to be received as part of humanitarian aid this year.

Many say Dzhumagulov's optimism is linked to government plans to try to put agricultural reforms in place in 1995. IF note: In a speech to the meeting of senior officials of the agriculture ministry in Bishkek, the prime minister said that the government had managed to get the agrarian and land reforms off the ground at the end of last year. He said the government planned to widen the privatization process this year and set market conditions in the farming sector. Work is in progress to try to produce a mechanism of establishing cooperative banks in the countryside to provide credits to private farmers. Customs barriers are to be lowered, restrictions on farm products to go and licensing on farming activity to be abolished. It was pointed out that out of 300 farms reformed last year, 222 will have to undergo renewed reforms. Dzhumagulov warned against any bureaucracy on this question.

Interior Minister Plans To Reorganize Police

LD1601184095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 16 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Newly-appointed Interior Minister Modalbek Moldashev speaking on Monday [16 January] announced plans to "seriously reorganize the country's law enforcement bodies".

He spoke of wanting to find out which of the police officers quitting the force in the past three years can be recruited again. The minister also intends to expose and dismiss all corrupt members of the police force.

Security and passport controls have been tightened in urban areas as part of efforts to straighten out law and order in the country. The minister also wants to take a range of measures against illegal drug smuggling from Tajikistan.

Moldashev said that the reform could help raise pay of police officers which will be higher than that of the ministry staff.

On his new job, Moldashev spoke of being struck by a lack of discipline and single command, ill-defined functions of different police units and no responsibility by senior police officials.

In this connection, the minister called for resuscitating the system of personal responsibility by senior police officials which he believes to be superior to that of collective decision making that existed before.

The minister believes that his department's immediate priority is to draw up a concept of the police force management and a program to combat against crime this year, both of which must be submitted to the government soon.

The maintenance of public order is the business of all government structures and each citizen of the country, Moldashev believes.

Trade Unions Appeal to Akayev Over Wage Payments

LD1601153495 Bishkek TRIBUNA RABOTA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] To the president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev: A statement by the Council of the Trade Union Federation of Kyrgyzstan.

Despite official appeals to the government, the general agreement on socio-economic problems, which sets out the timely payment of workers's wages, and our speeches and statements at government meetings, your decree on paying off wage and social benefit debts is not being implemented. The delay in payment of wages, pensions and allowances has become customary and commonplace.

Because of this, the labor rights of citizens, who for months have not received on time their earnings, pensions, and allowances, which are their only sources for living and supporting their families, are being crudely violated.

The debts for wages, pensions, and payments of compensation for bread are hundreds of millions of soms, which the authorities know very well. Moreover the debts are still growing.

The delayed sums of money are being devalued by inflation. No civilized country has such a complete violation of the constitutional rights of citizens.

The authorities are unconcerned about this most acute problem, and have to a large decree lost the key to management—they have isolated themselves, and are busy with conducting referenda, elections, and various anniversaries, while concentrating on serving themselves, while the fundamental interests of citizens remain outside their field of vision.

The government resolution and the presidential decree on paying off debts for social payments by 15 October 1994 have remained unimplemented, and even the results of this extraordinarily important instruction have not been summed up, no one has asked about it, no one has borne any responsibility for it.

And the majority of workers have virtually nothing to live on. There is a sharp drop in the living standards of the republic's population. The people's patience is at breaking-point. There is a pre-strike situation in the

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education system, health system, and in industrial collectives. Teachers are on strike in Ak-Suyskiy district of Issyk-Kul Region and the town of Maily-Saya.

Today, when there is no Supreme Assembly, when the republic's government has resigned, when the Constitutional Court has no legal rights, it is the president who is the guarantor of the observance of civil rights in society and who is obliged to take urgent and decisive measures to pay off debts for wages, pensions, benefits and grants with their complete indexation, and who is obliged to increase the accountability of officials for the timeliness of these payments.

We demand the fulfillment of laws and international obligations on the observance of labor relations by the authorities and economic bodies of all levels. Should the people's debts, their hard-earned money, not be returned, it is very difficult to count on the population's confidence and support.

The further violation of rights of workers to receive their social payments on time will force the trade unions of Kyrgyzstan to consider the issue of conducting a mass protest action. This measure is extremely undesirable, for it may destroy the fragile stability and shaky balance in society which has been reached with great effort.

[Signed] The Presidium of the Council of the Trade Union Federation of Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan

UN Increases Number of Military Observers

LD1301161095 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0845 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] The number of UN military observers [in Tajikistan] will increase to 40 in January, compared with 17 today. This decision was adopted by the UN Security Council in December last year. A KHOVAR correspondent was told this by General Roman Mishtal [name as received], a consultant to the military observers' mission who has arrived in Dushanbe on the instruction of the UN secretary-general.

At the same time the network of military observer control points is being increased to six or seven. The general noted that the opening of new points will increase the presence of the military observers. By assessing the implementation of the agreement on a temporary cease-fire inside the country and on the Tajik-Afghan border, Roman Mishtal stated with regret that the agreement is not being observed. He refrained from commenting on which side is more guilty of violations.

The presence of UN military observers in Tajikistan, Gen. Roman Mishtal said, was originally planned to continue until 6 February when the inter-Tajik agreement expires. He expressed hope that the agreement will be further extended by the two sides.

Letter Sent to UN Over Violations by Opposition

LD1601185595 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tajik Foreign Ministry issued the text of the letter from the Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali on 16 January. The letter in particular says:

According to its principal policy, the leadership of Tajikistan is taking all possible measures to achieve national reconciliation, ensure society's unity on the democratic restructuring methods, develop the process of the talks with the opposition, and its attraction to the political life of the country as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, it should be stressed that the opposition is roughly violating a cease-fire agreement that was signed during the past round of the inter-Tajik talks. Nearly everyday, cases of crossing the state border of Tajikistan by the opposition fighters—who are located in the northern areas of neighboring Afghanistan, and who are supported by mercenaries from other countries—are observed. They fire on the bordering areas and commit terrorist acts against civilians. There is an impression that the opposition is specially going to pursue the way aimed at wrecking the process of the talks, which is very successful due to the United Nations mediation.

The case of the brutal killing of nine Russian border guards by the fighters of the Islamic Rebirth Movement of Tajikistan on the border of Gorno-Badakhshan, was an angry provocation that was condemned by the world community.

It should be mentioned that the Russian border guards are carrying out their duties of protecting the state border of Tajikistan, which is also the joint border of the Commonwealth of Independent States, strictly according to the international agreements.

The Tajik Government is seriously concerned about the opposition actions, and appeals to the opposition to strictly obey the agreement, with the aim of continuing the peace talks.

I would like to ask you to use your influence and efforts so that the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks would be convened in Moscow, to discuss the important issues relating to national reconciliation. The leadership of Tajikistan emphasizes that it is in favor of the process of maintaining peace in Tajikistan, under the aegis of the United Nations, and that is why on this occasion asks again to consider positively the issue relating to giving the status of the United Nations force to the CIS peacekeeping force in Tajikistan.

We approve all the aspects of UN Security Council Resolution 968 on establishing a group of UN military

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observers in Tajikistan. According to our opinion, taking into account the increasing cases of cease-fire violations, it is necessary to start the fruitful activity of the United Nations observers in order to observe the implementation of the agreement on a cease-fire and the cessation of other hostilities, which was signed at the inter-Tajik talks.

Refugees in Afghanistan Asking To Return Home

LD1401133595 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, Jan. 14, IRNA—The Tajikistan Foreign Ministry announced that most of the Tajik refugees stationed in camps, northern Afghanistan, asked for returning their own country. Manager of Information Department of Tajikistan Foreign Ministry.....[ellipsis as received] told IRNA Saturday [14 January] that the number of refugees stands at 10,000 and the U.N. Supreme Commission of refugees has set up a transit camping place in Shirkhan Bandar of Afghanistan so as the refugees could return Tajikistan via this place.

He added that some one hundred Tajiks are ready now to return their own country. It is to be said that during the recent week, some 30 Tajiks have returned Tajikistan. The total Tajik refugees in Afghanistan, he added, is below 20,000 who are living in a very bad conditions. This is while the opposition group of Tajikistan government have announced that some 100,000 Tajiks are immigrants.

Foreign Ministry: 'Mercenaries' Aim To Scuttle Cease-Fire

LD1701074695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0733 GMT 17 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations January 17 TASS—Mercenaries who underwent terrorist training at Moslem countries, participate in armed provocations against Russian borderguards committed from the Afghan territory, says a statement by the Tajik Foreign Ministry circulated here on Monday [16 January] as a Security Council document.

These provocations are aimed at scuttling the intra-Tajik agreement on temporary ceasefire.

The document notes that a reinforced Russian border detail was shelled with recoilless guns from the Afghan territory on January 2 when it was helping civilians in the Darvaz district, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region who had been attacked by militants from the Tajik Movement of Islamic Revival.

As a result, six Russian borderguards were killed. Gunmen's firing emplacements on the Afghan territory were quashed by return fire.

Tajikistan notified the Security Council that it "has trustworthy information that this piratic attack involved mercenaries who underwent special terrorist training and who were on the payroll of Asian countries".

"It is obvious that the provocation was committed despite the agreement on temporary ceasefire and with the specific aim of frustrating the process of a peaceful settlement of the intra-Tajik conflict.

"At the same time, the leaders of irreconcilable Tajik opposition try to mould a false idea among the world public about actions by Russian borderguards. They are accused of inflicting forestalling strikes, violations of the ceasefire agreement and detainment of armed opposition members," the document notes.

The Tajik foreign office is authorised to state that actions by Russian borderguards are strictly limited to fulfilling tasks on the protection of the Tajik-Afghan border and do not run counter to the intra-Tajik agreement on temporary ceasefire.

Tajikistan also notified the Security Council that it addressed states participating in the collective security treaty with a request "to take additional measures to strengthen and protect the Tajik-Afghan section of the southern border of the Commonwealth of Independent States".

Government Accedes to Nuclear Security Convention

LD1701093395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 17 Jan 95

[By KHOVAR correspondent Negmat Ochilov for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe January 17 TASS—Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov signed a decree on Tajikistan's accession to the convention on nuclear security which was signed in Vienna on September 20, 1994. The decree will be submitted for the approval of a new parliament, the elections to which are scheduled for late February.

The Tajik leader also signed a decree on joining the Eurasian patent convention signed in Moscow last September 3. This decree will be also submitted for the approval of parliament.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov, Ukrainian President View Bilateral Relations

LD1401102095 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press-service of the president of Turkmenistan reports that early on 12 January a telephone conversation took place between Turkmen

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President Saparmurad Atayavich Niyazov and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. The presidents exchanged opinions on bilateral relations and on the progress of the implementation of accords and agreements reached during the recent visit of Kuchma to Turkmenistan.

It was emphasized that active partnership between the two states is fully in line with the tasks of the construction of the independent states and the strengthening of the national economies.

As was stated in a telegram from the Ukrainian president sent to the Turkmen president, Kuchma confirmed the firm intention of the Ukrainian side to do everything possible to guarantee the consistent implementation of the financial obligations proceeding from the importance of preserving and actualizing long term Ukrainian-Turkmen cooperation.

During the conversation an agreement was reached on Turkmen gas supplies to Ukraine, namely that a Ukrainian government delegation would visit Turkmenistan on 13 January this year to clarify mutual payments for Turkmen gas supplies in 1994 and prepare agreements on Turkmen gas supplies in 1995.

As for Ukraine meeting the obligations from 5 November 1994, the Ukrainian side has paid $107 million and has shipped goods and produce worth $50 million, as mentioned in the Ukrainian president's message to Saparmurad Atayavich Niyazov.

The Ukrainian president confirmed once again his invitation to President Niyazov to visit Ukraine on a return official and friendly visit.

Oil, Gas Price Increases Set for 15 Jan

LD1201111395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 12 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Lukin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] January 12 TASS— Prices of oil products will rise steeply in Turkmenistan as of January 15. The decree to this effect was issued by President Sapurmurat Niyazov for purposes of economical use of fuel and energy resources and because of increased outlays for their production.

The cost of petrol will increase on an average six-eight times. Petrol of grades ai-91, ai-93 will cost ten manats per litre, of grades a-72, a-76 eight manats per liter (one dollar is exchanged for 225 manats). There will also be a rise on prices of diesel fuel, kerosene and fuel for stoves.

It was decreed that petrol and diesel fuel will be sold to consumers at these prices within the limits fixed by the Ministry of Oil and Gas. Petrol and diesel fuel will be sold above the limits at free prices. People decapacitated during the Great Patriotic War and other categories of citizens entitled to compensation for expenditures on petrol will be granted a 50 per cent discount on the cost of oil products.

Uzbekistan

Speeches Mark 'Defenders of the Homeland Day'

President Attends Celebrations

LD1501103995 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 14 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] There were many more people than usual in the Turkiston Palace on 13 January. Officers of the republic's armed forces, soldiers and military students, war and labor veterans, representatives of the capital city's public, and foreign guests were invited here to a ceremonial meeting dedicated to one of the most sacred holidays of our people—Defenders of the Homeland Day.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov, the commander in chief of the country's Armed Forces, government leaders, generals, and veterans occupied seats on the rostrum. The Mayor of Tashkent Kazim Tulyaganov declared the meeting open.

The national anthem of our independent country was played. The Uzbek Defense Minister Lieutenant General Rustam Ahmedov delivered a report on the third anniversary of the creation of the Armed Forces.

President Karimov congratulated Armed Forces personnel—military students, soldiers, officers, generals, and war veterans on the occasion of Defenders of the Homeland Day.

"Today a great holiday is being celebrated in our land—Defenders of the Homeland Day," Karimov said. "This is a very important and glorious date. Our people from ancient times have attached great importance to the training of their brave sons. They have looked on their defenders with respect and deference. You, the military, are making a worthy contribution to the strengthening of the defensive power of the homeland. Independent Uzbekistan and its industrious people firmly believe in the reliability of their defenders. Peace and accord in the country is our main wealth. I wish that tranquility will always reign in our fatherland and that happiness and strong health accompany you!"

In accordance with the president's edict, for their active participation in improving the combat readiness of the Armed Forces, educating the younger generation in the spirit of faithfulness to the ideas of independence, and also in connection with the third anniversary of the republic's Armed Forces and Defenders of the Homeland Day, a group of servicemen and people from the Defense Ministry, the National Security Service, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were awarded high awards of the homeland—the awards Friendship and For a Healthy Generation, the medals Glory and Courage,

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honorary titles and honorary certificates of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Karimov presented these awards ceremonially.

Military unit commander Rustam Tolipov, who made a speech on behalf of the people who had received awards, expressed hearty gratitude to President Karimov for his high appraisal of the military's work, and assured him that they will always remain faithful to the homeland and president.

Erkin Khalilov, the acting chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan and officials took part in the ceremonial meeting. The meeting ended with a concert by major artists.

Karimov Greets Armed Forces

LD1401094495 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Greetings message from President Islam Karimov to personnel of the armed forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan marking Defenders of the Homeland Day—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends. I cordially congratulate you on this sacred holiday—Defenders of the Homeland Day.

From the earliest times each man in our fatherland, whether old or young, considered himself the defender of his country, and did not spare his strength and energy, or even his life, for the glory of his homeland and its defense. And to this day, in our native land, this glorious tradition is consistently followed, enriched now with new spirit and content.

The armed forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan occupy a most important place in protecting the independence of the country, its territorial integrity, the peaceful life of our people, and its creative labor along the road of strengthening sovereignty, and their role is immense in educating a young generation in the spirit of patriotism.

Thanks to your resoluteness and enthusiasm, your military skill, peace in our houses and land is preserved; there is a cloudless sky above us and calm in our souls. You show particular selflessness in the implementation of the peaceful policy of our state.

This year, the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism will be widely celebrated. You, warriors, are the successors of our fathers and grandfathers who unsparingly fought in these terrible battles. I believe that following the behest of our brave and courageous ancestors, relying on their experience, you will continue to make a worthy contribution to the further strengthening the defense power of our country.

Once more on this holiday I congratulate the personnel of the armed forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, war veterans, and all compatriots who consider themselves the defenders of our homeland. I wish you, defenders of the homeland, good health and success in your honored and martial labor.

[Signed] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Defense Minister's Speech

LD1601090795 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 0500 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Speech by Defense Minister Rustam Akhmedov in Tashkent on 13 January to mark Homeland Defenders Day—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The elections to the Supreme Council and the local councils of people's deputies held on 25 December 1994 served as a major step in developing the democratic process in independent, sovereign Uzbekistan and constructing a law-based state. They provided eloquent evidence of our society's cohesion and of the unity that exists between army and people, the support for the reform policy, and a resolve to attain the objectives that we have set.

We naturally have problems, too. But this are the problems associated with growth and with forward progress toward a new state of society.

At the same time, many people who visit our republic are impressed by its peace and stability, by the civil accord that exists on the ancient soil of Uzbekistan, and by the opportunity for members of the more than 100 nations and ethnic groups that make up the republic's 23 million people to study freely in their native languages, to perform religious rituals, and to be equals among equals in our country.

It is no secret that the republic's enemies are making quite a few attempts to destabilize the situation in the country. They are attempting to put all sorts of difficulties in our way. By exerting pressure, making threats, and spreading slanderous rumors, they are seeking to sow the seeds of confrontation and strife, and to draw us into the orbit of Islamic fundamentalism.

There are other kinds of characters who are preaching the fine-sounding idea of a Eurasian Union in an attempt to revive centralized administration and the old methods of leadership, and to take the futures of nations into their unskilled hands.

Here I would like to underline that any coercive methods in this direction are doomed to failure. Such methods can lead only to unpredictable and negative consequences.

A people who have acquired statehood and a sense of freedom will never give up their independence for anything.

The tragic experience of our near neighbor Tajikistan shows what the imposition of alien ideas can lead to. The

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bloody slaughter unleashed by Islamic fundamentalists and their patrons, as well as the tragic events in Bosnia and Chechnya, show how explosively dangerous our world is, how fragile the precious peace in our land is, and how much it should be cherished.

Uzbekistan has acted and will always act as a certain guarantor of peace and stability in the Central Asian region. Our president has repeatedly set out our stance on international and regional problems at United Nations General Assembly sessions, at meetings of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as from the rostrums of other international organizations. Uzbekistan's balanced, peace-loving policy has brought it great authority among the world community. [passage omitted]

[Akhmedov, in Uzbek] The creation of our own military department [the Defense Ministry] gave us the opportunity to revive the military profession, the profession of defender of the homeland, and raise this to the necessary level.

Everyone knows that in the former Soviet Army Uzbek lads were mostly to be seen with shovels in their hands while Uzbek officers served in the commissariats [recruitment offices]. Uzbek soldiers were more often to be met in the Siberian taiga or on the northern seas than protecting our southern borders. Representatives of almost all the Comecon [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] countries went into space, but there were no Uzbeks among them. Our compatriots were numerically the least represented among those generals who graduated from prestigious military academies.

All this has had the effect of reducing the authority and reputation that the military profession enjoys among the population. But the following is a clear reflection of the fact that our people love the military profession and are able to defend their homeland: Whereas Uzbeks made up six percent of officers when our Armed Forces were being set up, this figure has now multiplied tenfold, to over 60 percent.

Early fruits of our independence are the noticeable growth in the number of young people who want to learn the military profession, the profession of defender of the homeland, and the increase in the authority that this profession enjoys. This is proof that the path of development that we have chosen is the right one. [passage omitted]

The period of formation and with it the time of [word indistinct] accountability of officers for organizing leadership in military training. The second phase of military reforms on the whole, and in 1995 in particular, have to introduce serious changes in military and technical policy. In spite of some economic difficulties the government is undertaking every measure for our Armed Forces to be provided with weaponry and equipment in full and on time. The task of the military personal is to fully master the weaponry and equipment, and to achieve professionalism in operating them, and on this basis to maintain the weaponry entrusted to them by the nation in constnt combat readiness.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Army Day

LD1301193695 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On 14 January the people of independent Uzbekistan will celebrate an important holiday—Homeland Defenders' Day. Ahead of this important event a correspondent from the UZBEK INFORMATION AGENCY met Lieutenant General Rustam Ahmedov, Uzbek defense minister, and asked him to answer some questions.

[Question] Rustam Urmanovich, the Armed Forces of our republic rightly consider the day one of their most important holidays. What does it mean to our sergeants, warrant officers, officers, and generals?

[Ahmedov] The establishment of this holiday is evidence of the recognition of the important role that the Armed Forces play in the life of our country as the guarantors of peace and stability in society and the territorial integrity and independence of Uzbekistan.

This holiday became possible because our motherland acquired true statehood and independence, and because of our people's age-old aspiration for freedom and their resolve to decide their own future. Despite its youth, Homeland Defenders' Day has deep historical roots. Our people have honored their defenders as far back as the never-conquered Sogdiana and Bactria, Maracanda and Khorezm.

Uzbekistan's soldiers won unfading glory during the years of war against Fascism. General Sobir Rahimov, the courageous battalion commander, Guards Major Ahmedjan Qurbanov, Sergeant Qudrat Suyunov, and thousands of other sons of Uzbekistan serve as models for the fulfillment of military duty even today.

[Question] The Armed Forces of our state are still very young. What has changed in their objectives and assignments over the last three years?

[Ahmedov] The last three years since the foundation of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan as an integral attribute of an independent state is no more than a passing moment in historical terms. But if you cast your mind back to those early days you can see what complex tasks our president—the supreme commander—parliament, government, and the newly created Defense Ministry had to accomplish in creating our own Armed Forces; you might well also conclude that other states would need decades to accomplish them.

Something of great significance for the definition of military policy and the main areas of military construction was the adoption on 3 July 1992 of the laws on defense, on general military duty, and military service, and on alternative service by the Supreme Council of the

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Republic of Uzbekistan. The first Constitution of independent Uzbekistan reinforced the legal status of the Armed Forces. Today, they have a clearly-defined precise organizational structure and management system. They consist of the ground forces, the Air Force, the Air Defense Forces, the Special Forces, and the National Guard. The president, who is supreme commander of the Armed Forces, exercises supreme leadership, while the Defense Ministry provides day-by-day leadership.

During these three years the foundations for the defense potential of the young independent state were laid. It is enough to note that between 1993 and 1994, which were declared the first stage in reforming the Armed Forces, optimization and improvement of their personnel structure was carried out; the military units, establishments, and military education institutions were reformed; and a streamlined system was set up for officer training, training and educating soldiers, and providing social security for soldiers and their families.

Vigilant fulfillment of combat duty and all other kinds of service, daily combat training, and the improvement of professional skills remain an indispensable requirement for every military collective.

[Question] Comrade lieutenant general, what are the Armed Forces engaged in doing? What successes have they achieved ahead of Homeland Defenders' Day?

[Ahmedov] I would like to say some words of thanks and gratitude to all personnel in the Armed Forces for their selfless military work for the good of our beloved motherland.

In all units constant combat readiness is being maintained, the forms and methods of training, and the methods of combat operations are being perfected taking the requirements of the defense doctrine into account. I would express special gratitude to our officers, who perform their professional duty with honor and share their rich army experience with Uzbekistan's new generation of soldiers.

It is no mere chance that once the Supreme Council had approved the title of Hero of Uzbekistan, the orders of Independence and Friendship, and the Glory and Courage medals, among the first chests on which these awards sparkled were those of members of the Armed Forces such as Major General V. Mahmudov, Colonels M. Madaminov and A.Harlamov, Lieutenant Colonels V. Braginskiy and A. Pokrovskiy, Majors R. Jalolov and H. Rahimov, and many more.

We have many generals, officers, warrant officers, sergeants, and soldiers who are professional and competent in carrying out combat training assignments and resolving matters of personnel training and education in the best traditions of our people. I would like to single out Major General I. Ergashev, Colonel Sh. Jorayev, Lieutenant Colonels A. Akramov, R. Talipov and S. Kudryashov, Majors R. Hasanov and A. Rudenko, Captain L. Tulyaganov, and Senior Lieutenant R. Ikramov. Like the overwhelming majority of soldiers, they are typified by a high level of professionalism, a conscientious attitude to their service obligations, constant attention to the needs of soldiers and sergeants, and tireless concern for their financial and everyday well-being.

[Question] The Armed Forces have their own problems, like any state structure in today's transition period. How are these being solved?

[Ahmedov] I would like to dwell on the human factor in the army, especially the key area of social and legal protection for soldiers. Many social security problems have been solved through the efforts of the president and the Supreme Council.

The housing problem of officers has effectively been solved. The daily maintenance payment for officers, warrant officers, and conscripted soldiers has been considerably increased. Through the joint efforts of the state authorities and the Defense Ministry the food provisioning, medical services, and trade outlets available to servicemen and members of their families have been organized at the proper level, and in-house enterprises producing and manufacturing the products and consumer items needed by the Armed Forces have been set up.

Starting from this year there is to be a gradual changeover to a new uniform.

The resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers from 3 October 1994 on additional privileges for conscripted servicemen and members of their families has had a great impact in the Armed Forces. It has strengthened the social position of a young man serving in the army not only by giving great credit to his military work, but also by creating a basis for his subsequent education and tax benefits for his parents. The resolution on free postal service for soldiers and sergeants and their parents is a sign of the republican leadership's concern for them.

In carrying out the tasks of military construction and maintenance of the troops we constantly sense the support and direct involvement of the local authorities and public organizations. This cooperation has a most positive effects on all aspects of life and activity in the units and subunits. Today, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the local administrations and public organizations for their understanding of the problems facing the army, and my confidence that solving these will continue to be a matter for the entire people and all state institutions. This is because strengthening the defense capacity of the country is a matter for all the people!

[Question] Rustam Urmanovich, tell me how matters stand regarding international military cooperation, including that with the armies of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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[Ahmedov] When it was setting up its own Armed Forces the Republic of Uzbekistan initially proceeded from the idea that they would be an integral part of all the defense forces of the Commonwealth. It is from that standpoint that we viewed—and we continue to view—the Treaty on Collective Security concluded in May 1992 in Tashkent, and signed by heads of CIS countries: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. In 1993 Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Belarus acceded to the treaty.

The exceptionally complicated processes taking place in all CIS countries, without exception, have made it impossible to make full use of the opportunities offered by the treaty. For today's Armed Forces of Uzbekistan military cooperation means an intensification of bilateral relations. Over the last year these relations have made practical advances with such states as Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. On 2 March 1994, the presidents of Uzbekistan and Russia signed an all-embracing treaty on cooperation in the military sphere. The staff of the Independent Motor Rifle Battalion deployed in Tajikistan on the southern CIS border, together with soldiers from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, is carrying out its military duty with dignity and honor. On Homeland Defenders' Day a high-ranking delegation will present them with numerous gifts and souvenirs that the republic has sent as a sign of its recognition and gratitude for their difficult and noble mission.

[Question] Rustam Urmanovich, our conversation is coming to its end. What would you like to wish the servicemen and their families on their festive day?

[Ahmedov] Above all, I would like them to remember that our Armed Forces, which were born out of independence, have only just started along the way. They face high hurdles and serious tasks, on the surmounting and accomplishment of which the future shape of our army and the peaceful labor of our people will depend.

The year 1995 will be a key one for us in implementing the second stage of military reform. It is planned to conclude the reform of the Armed Forces and to achieve new and higher-quality results in combat training. This year, in the wake of the Dzhizak higher military airmen's college, the Military Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan will open its doors wide. Intense daily work will continue in every subunit to strengthen military discipline, organization, and law and order.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan will spend the fourth year of its existence under the banner of the outstanding historical event of the second half of the 20th century—the 50th anniversary of victory over Fascism in the 1941-1945 war. This requires that each of us once again turns to the sources of the glorious military traditions of our fathers and grandfathers. As we pay great homage and gratitude to our dear veterans, we must make use of their immense moral and ethical potential for training and educating personnel. I am firmly convinced that the soldiers of Uzbekistan will continue to devote all their strength and skills to the noble work of strengthening the defense potential of our motherland, the sovereign and independent Uzbekistan.

On behalf of the leadership of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I cordially congratulate all my compatriots--the generals, officers, warrant officers, sergeants, soldiers, workers, office staff, and veterans of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan—on Homeland Defenders' Day.

Election Results Show Almost All Seats Go to Ex-Communists

LD1401144795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Official data on the results of the elections, the second round of which was held on 8 January, were published in Uzbekistan today.

The neo-communists scored a convincing victory: 95 percent of the deputies' seats in parliament will belong to former Communist Party members.

Commission Reports on Repeat Elections

LD1601085895 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 1115 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, a regular meeting of the Central Election Commission on conducting elections to the Supreme Assembly of the Republic of Uzbekistan took place. The meeting was chaired by Commission Chairman Qudratilla Ahmedov. The meeting discussed the results of the repeat elections held in 39 constituencies on 8 January in line with Articles 11 and 43 of the law on elections.

A total of 1,511,667 people took part in the voting. This is 88.3 percent of the voters on the electoral roll in these constituencies. The following percentages of all voters on the electoral roll took part in these areas:
City of Tashkent, in five constituencies: 80.6 percent;
Andizhan Region, in three constituencies: 94.6 percent;
Namangan Region, in seven constituencies: 93.7 percent;
Bukhara Region, in three constituencies: 85.1 percent;
Samarkand Region, in three constituencies: 81.7 percent;
Syrdarya Region, in one constituency: 95.1 percent;
Surkhandarya Region, in two constituencies: 85.8 percent;
Tashkent Region, in six constituencies: 87.5 percent;
Ferghana Region, in five constituencies: 90.1 percent;
Khorezm Region, in two constituencies: 93.6 percent;
Karakalpak Republic, in two constituencies: 82.6 percent.

In accordance with the results of the repeat elections, deputies were elected in 38 constituencies. Of that number, 13 were elected from the People's Democratic

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Party of Uzbekistan, six from the Homeland Progress Party, and 19 from local representative bodies.

Out of all the 1,511,667 people on the electoral roll in the 39 constituencies, 491,230 people or 32.5 percent of the electorate voters voted for deputies nominated by the People's Democratic Party, 276,065 people or 18.3 percent voted for deputies nominated by the Homeland Progress Party.

As neither of the candidates received a sufficient number of votes in constituency No.238, Universitetskiy, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, in line with Articles 43 and 44 of the law on elections, a repeat ballot will take place in this constituency on 22 January this year.

The Central Election Commission reviewed the documents submitted by the constituency commissions and adopted a resolution on registering the deputies who were elected to the Supreme Assembly in line with Articles 11, 43, and 44 of the law on elections, on the results of repeat elections.

At its meeting, the Central Election Commission noted that as a result of the elections to the Supreme Assembly on 25 December 1994 and the repeat voting which took place on 8 January 1995, 67 deputies were elected from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, 12 deputies from the Homeland Progress Party, and 164 deputies from administration bodies.

Questions of registering the Supreme Assembly deputies nominated by the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the Homeland Progress Party, and local representative bodies in the seven constituencies where repeat elections are to take place [on 22 January] were discussed at the meeting and decisions were adopted.

Other questions concerning the powers of the Central Election Commission were discussed at the meeting.

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Armenia

Iran-Armenia Commission Holds Final Meeting

NC1301204095 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1557 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 13/01/95 [NOYAN TAPAN]—On January 13 the Commission for Coordination of Armenian-Iranian Ties and Commission Iran-Armenia held a final joint sitting.

The Armenian Vice-President, head of the Armenian Coordination Commission for Armenian-Iranian ties Gagik Harutyunyan positively assessed the work of the session, pointing out that it enabled to draw results of the work that was already carried out and draft another prospective plans.

Gagik Harutyunyan also underlined the importance of the fact of January 12 inauguration of Yerevan-based affiliation of the "Mellat" Bank. Harutyunyan said that an agreement on opening of an affiliation of the Iranian Insurance Company in Yerevan had been reached. Also agreements on establishment of joint venture dealing with road construction as well as a number of interstate agreements, including agreements on investments, on avoidance of double taxation etc. were reached. It is supposed that documents will be elaborated, discussed and prepared within three months.

For his part, the Iranian Finance and Economics Minister, the Chairman of the Iran-Armenia Commission for Coordination Mohammad Khan pointed out that the two countries entered into a new stage in their economic relations. The head of the Iranian delegation considered useful his meeting with the Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, during which the latter was invited to pay an official visit to Iran.

In conclusion the sides signed protocol, setting out principle approaches on cooperation between the two countries, further activities and ways for cooperation in different fields of economy.

Chechen Conflict Affecting Gas Supplies

LD1501211795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 15 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The consequences of the Chechen war are evident not only in Russia but in Armenia as well. The only road which used to transport fuel from Russia to Armenia goes through Groznyy. The already blockaded republic has now found itself completely cut off from all land transport links.

A new problem has surfaced in the last few days. Because of disagreements on transit tariffs on the gas from Turkmenistan, which is transported via Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation, its supply to Armenia has sharply dropped in the last week.

The meager fuel ration of the republic's population has been reduced yet again despite the fact that all outstanding debt on gas has been promptly paid by Armenia.

A statement issued by the government says that if an agreement is reached, gas supplies will resume at previous levels. However, people are already cold and sit in the dark, because the Armenian government has decided to use its rather limited supplies of fuel on vital facilities.

Government To Allow Humanitarian Aid to Nakhichevan

NC1601203895 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry has reported that the International Red Cross Committee has appealed to the ministry to allow the transportation of humanitarian freight destined for the Nakhichevan Republic through Armenian territory.

Proceeding from the agreement on confidence-building measures adopted in Prague on 15 April 1994 within the CSCE Minsk Group framework, as well as from the Armenian president's well-known statement that his country is ready to unilaterally make its territory available for the transportation of humanitarian assistance destined for Nakhichevan, the Republic's government has decided to honor the request of the Red Cross.

The freight transportation operation was planned for 17 January at the Armash-Sadarak section of the state border. However, the Azerbaijani side indefinitely postponed the implementation of the humanitarian operation by using a number of technical excuses.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry deplores the fact that the Azerbaijani side has not used such an opportunity and reiterates its continued readiness to fulfill this responsibility assumed by the Republic's government.

Karabakh 'President,' Officials Visit Yerevan

NC1601210995 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Robert Kocharyan, president of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], and [words indistinct] arrived in Yerevan on 16 January. [words indistinct] The Karabakh leaders met with Chairman of the Supreme Council Babken Ararktsyan and Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan will receive them on 17 January.

The development of cooperation between Armenia and the NKR, broadening of inter-parliamentary ties, and a number of serious issues relating to the political, social, and economic problems were discussed during the 16 January meeting between Chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council Babken Ararktsyan and NKR President Robert Kocharyan.

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The Supreme Council press service also reported that views were exchanged on the consolidation of the current peaceful achievements in the region during the warm and friendly conversation. Ara Sahakyan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council; Artashes Tumanyan, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council; Vrazdat Avoyan, secretary of the parliament; and NKR Prime Minister Leonard Petrosyan were present at the meeting.

Matters relating to the improvement of the NKR's economic situation were discussed during a meeting between Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and NKR President Robert Kocharyan.

The Armenian Government press service reported that the Karabakh leader was particularly interested in Armenia's economic reform program; the privatization of the land and small enterprises; and in Armenia's experience in the transition to a market economy. The resettlement of Karabakh refugees, restoration of the villages, spring agricultural work, road construction, and other economic issues were discussed during the meeting. Armenian Finance Minister Levon Barkhudaryan, NKR Prime Minister Leonard Petrosyan, and other officials participated in the meeting.

Supreme Court Stops Operation of ARF for 6 Months

NC1401132295 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0823 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Azg" daily), 01/14/95—After about five hours of discussions, RA [Republic of Armenia] Supreme Court yesterday decided to stop operation of Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF] Dashnaktsutyun in Armenia for six months, starting on January 13.

The Supreme Court accepted first charge of the Ministry of Justice concerning involvement of foreign citizens in leading bodies of the party and refused the second one, concerning the "Dro" structure, since investigation has not finished yet.

Azerbaijan

Agreement on Bus Route Through Iran

NC1301210995 Baku TURAN in English 1135 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 13) TURAN—Taking into account all difficulties connected with air route between Baku and Nakhichevan Iran's authorities agreed that a route bus through territory of Iran will work. The bus will cross Azeri-Iranian border in Astara and will pass through the territory of Iran to Julfa, where it will again cross Iranian-Azeri border and leave for Nakhichevan. That decision was adopted after an agreement on visaless departure of civilians of both countries (passengers of buses and drivers of trucks) obtained between Azerbaijan and Iran.

Iran stated about its readyness to simplify the process of crossing borders in all Customs' points and to announce the Belasuvar will be an international point.

First Refugees From Chechnya Arrive in Azerbaijan

NC1401203795 Baku TURAN in English 1404 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 14) TURAN—According to State Committee for Refugees and Displaced People refugees from Chechnya began to arrive in republic in January. According to Head of the Committee Yusif Aliyev eight families were settled in Gusar region and three families in Khachmas region of Azerbaijan (these are regions bordering with Dagestan republic.) Only two persons arrived from conflict zone appealed to State Committee for Refugees and Displaced People.

Shell Oil's Addition to Caspian Consortium

NC1301211195 Baku TURAN in English 1448 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 13) TURAN—Today President Geydar Aliyev met with president of famous oil company Shell Mark Mudi Stewart [name as received]. Aliyev expressed satisfaction with the fact that such a large company as Shell wishes to cooperate with Azerbaijan. Mark Mudi Stewart thanked president Aliyev for that meeting and expressed hope for cooperation with SOCAR [State Oil Company of Azerbaijan] in the field of new technologies and joint projects. It was noted during the meeting that representatives of Shell company had talks with leaders of SOCAR and were ready to submit to the president of the country the obtained agreements on bilateral cooperation.

"Shell company proposed to include her to the list of members - participants of the consortium for development oil fields Azeri, Chirag and Guneshli," TURAN was told by informed source in SOCAR. Shell proposes to get 5% of total share in the contract in exchange for financial guaranties of Azerbaijan's share in the project. Representatives of Shell promised to solve all existing problems and to speed up oil production, according to source in SOCAR. But this information was refuted by Shell's representation in Baku.

Earlier Azerbaijan proposed to Iran 5 percent in the consortium in exchange for financing the Azerbaijan's share. But American companies expressed indignation with that decision as they do not want to deal with Iran.

Gasanov Refutes Report on Truce Violation on Front

NC1301211995 Baku TURAN in English 1239 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 13) TURAN—Today Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov

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received US ambassador in Azerbaijan Richard Kauzlarich, temporary attorney of Germany in Azerbaijan Michael Schmunk, Russia's ambassador Valter Shonia and Deputy Turkey's ambassador Vural Altay.

Gasanov said that today Russian television issued an information as if Azerbaijan violated truce on the front. "It is lie. The situation taking place last year is repeated, when Armenians aggravated the situation and violated the truce. Goal of Armenians is to break truce and to prevent the implementation of decisions of the Budapest summit." said Gasanov.

Gasanov reminded the ambassadors that in November last year France Press Agency distributed an information that "Lachin region of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenians in May 1992 is populated by people from Armenia," said Minister. He added that Armenia's vice-president Arutyunyan and Karabakh's representative Baburyan visited recently foreign countries and gathered funds for settlement the Armenians on the occupied Azeri territories. Gasanov asked the ambassadors to deliver that information to their governments. Th [item received incomplete]

Foreign Ministry Denies Violating Cease-Fire

LD1401150595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku January 14 (INTERFAX)—Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry has dismissed as a "lie" the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Ministry's assertion that Azerbaijani troops have violated the ceasefire.

The defence deparatment has released a statement, saying that it is the Armenian troops who in the last few days shelled Azerbaijan army positions on the north-eastern section of the front in the Geranboi area.

The defence ministry reported that the massing of Armenian troops and arms had been in evidence lately and that over the last few weeks Armenian units on the north-eastern section of the front advanced by several kilometers from the old front line, and now they are only several dozen meters away from Azerbaijan's forward positions.

Defense Ministry Says No Cease-Fire Violations

NC1301123795 Baku TURAN in English 0917 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 13) TURAN—Today Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry distributed statement, which reports that information of the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh's Foreign Ministry about violation of cease-fire regime by Azeri troops is absolutely false.

Last night Armenian units again shelled post of Azeri army near Tap village in Geranboy region of Azerbaijan (north-eastern section of front). Aga Akperov, Head of Executive power of Geranboy region, told TURAN's correspondent. He said that Armenian troops continue transferring military vehicles and life force to this section of the front. "Armenians placed their tanks and weapons on strategically important hills", Akperov says. He added that armoured personnel carriers and artillery were also placed on strategical positions, 50 metres to Tap village.

Intelligence agency reports that Armenian units prepare another offensive on regional centres of Geranboy and Ter-Ter to occupy them, Aga Akperov mentioned.

Executive power of Ter-Ter (north-eastern section of the front) told TURAN that over the past days Armenian units provoke Azeri party to violate cease-fire regime. In particular, Armenian party several times attempted to move its posts [item incomplete as received]

Georgia

Kitovani, Armed Followers Move on Abkhazia; Arrested

Abkhazian Armed Forces on Combat Alert

LD1301180995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1607 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sochi, 13 Jan—The Abkhazian armed forces were put on combat alert following the news that armed formations led by Tengiz Kitovani, the former Georgian defense minister, are on their way to Abkhazia. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this at the Ministry of Press and Information of the republic. According to the Abkhazian source, Kitovani stated before his departure that another three battalions will be joining his convoy enroute, and he said his actions were agreed upon with the Russian military.

Kitovani Warned to Lay Down Arms

LD1301145195 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—Igor Giorgadze, chairman of the Georgian Security Service, made a statement today in connection with the provocative actions committed by Tengiz Kitovani. In his words, on at 0900 today, a group of armed volunteers in about 20 Ikarus buses gathered outside the headquarters of the National-Liberation Front and at 1200, set off for Gali, West Georgia, led by [former defense minister] Tengiz Kitovani.

Giorgadze noted that the actions of Kitovani and his supporters were a provocation aimed against the Georgian people which played into the hands of the Abkhaz separatists. Neither official Georgia nor official Russia are taking part in this assault.

At a meeting with the head of state today, all heads of power ministries and law enforcement agencies were ordered to make every effort to stop and disarm the

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group which has set off for Abkhazia. Special subunits and well-trained groups of the Security Service personnel left for West Georgia to carry out this task.

The only possible motive behind Kitovani's action is his desire to wage a civil war on Georgian territory. If any actions are carried out in connection with Abkhazia, they will not be provocative and will be carried out by order by the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze. Giorgadze went on to say: I would like to warn that if a single drop of blood is shed, it will be fully the responsibility of Kitovani and his supporters.

Russia's Filatov: 'Provocation'

LD1301174595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1658 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi/Moscow January 13 TASS—Illegal armed units of the Georgian National-Liberation Front headed for Abkhazia today to "restore territorial integrity of the state". The units will be disarmed if they try to penetrate in Abkhazia, well-informed sources in the peace-making troops told ITAR-TASS today. The most decisive measures will be taken in case of any resistance, they said.

Ex-Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani, who heads the incursion, told correspondents that any attempts to stop the volunteer unit will result in a civil war in Georgia.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze convened an emergency meeting of the interior, defence and security ministers and told a briefing later that the actions of the National Liberation Front leaders are "a mere provocation aiming to break peace-making process in Abkhazia". In his words, the Kitovani unit is an illegal formation to face adequate measures.

The Georgian leadership warned the Russian peacemakers in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone about possible clashes with the uncontrolled armed units.

Sources at the Abkhazian Ministry for Information and Press told ITAR-TASS that the Abkhazian troops were put on the alert today. According to the Abkhazian source, before his departure Kitovani said his column will be joined by another three battalions and noted that his actions have been coordinated with the Russian military.

Head of the Russian President's administration Sergey Filatov said the act of the Kitovani group is a "provocation" against the Russian peace-makers. He told ITAR-TASS over the telephone that these actions aim to destabilize the situation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone.

According to information received by ITAR-TASS from independent sources, the illegal armed units of the Georgian National Liberation front have reached the populated locality of Zestafoni 200 kilometers northwest of Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze Orders Action Against Kitovani

LD1301184795 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 13 Jan 95

[President Eduard Shevardnadze news conference in Tbilisi; question-and-answer session in Russian; all correspondents are unidentified—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shevardnadze] The nucleus of the leadership has just held a meeting, including the heads of power structures and law-enforcement bodies. As you know, about 200-250 people gathered in Tbilisi today. They were armed. They captured buses, cars, and gathered the cars near Pasteri Street [in central Tbilisi]. Afterwords, they left for west Georgia in order to free Abkhazia, according to them. This action is led by Tengiz Kitovani, who has vast experience in such initiatives and adventures. Batoni [polite form of address] Sigua and others are with Kitovani. They are hoping that they will enter West Georgia and people will join in as they go along. They are assuring people that this action has the agreement of the Russian Command. Some Astunov, if I have the correct name, is with them. He is an agent provocateur, a citizen of Russia, and claims he is the Russian president's envoy. He says on behalf of the Russian president that the Russian Command will support the Georgian return to Abkhazia. There are Cossacks and people of other nationalities in the formation. [Defense Minister] General Nadibaidze spoke on the phone with Russian Defense Minister Grachev, the head of the General Staff, and other high-ranking military. Today I spoke with the head of the headquarters of the General Staff of Russian troops deployed in Georgia, as the commander himself is not here—he is away in Armenia and is expected back soon.

The general statement is that it is a pure provocation. There have been no agreements with the Russian military on this issue. As for the Russian troops along the Inguri river banks, they will only carry out the tasks they have been entrusted with. Thus, this is a pure provocation.

Incidentally, the justice minister and the procurator general informed us today that the organization founded by Tengiz Kitovani—something like a liberation organization—is illegal. The court has annulled it as an illegal one. I also declared today that this armed formation is an illegal armed formation.

I cannot rule out that they do not care about entering Abkhazia because they know perfectly well that it is impossible and they will not be able to pass through to Abkhazia. Should there be talks on entering Abkhazia, this has to happen on the government level rather than on the level of amateurism. This is a fresh attempt, characteristic of the two of them [Kitovani and Sigua], to drag Georgia into yet another civil war swamp. They hope to draw certain people to their side on their way, to camp someplace in Samegrelo Province [in western

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Georgia adjacent to Abkhazia], and to find new accomplices there in western Georgia. Then they will begin to rob and plunder again because they will have to get food and clothing. This will happen because this is not a government formation, this is an illegal formation.

Therefore, I regard the action as an attempt to drag the country into a civil war. There is nothing else serious in it. I regard the action taken by Kitovani and Sigua as playing into the Abkhaz separatists' hands only. This will be the only effect. And the action has been planned to cause the failure of the process of settling the conflict, a reassuring beginning to which has been outlined by the events in the North Caucasus. It never crosses their mind that the Abkhazian issue can be settled and will be settled by the legal authorities. I reiterate that should any measure be taken, be it in a peaceful way or even in a military way, this has to happen on a government level.

Therefore, whatever they have initiated now is completely unlawful. I sent them a message this morning saying that their action was unlawful. Although they spread rumors yesterday that their action had been agreed with the head of state, this is a sheer lie. Hence, measures expected normally from the legitimate authorities will be taken against the unlawful activities.

I would also like to say that this provocation, a provocation of the first order, may cost dear to the Georgians still remaining in Abkhazia. I am not going to elaborate on this. The separatists will naturally take measures for their part and whoever is still there, and you know that thousands of people are there, will be the first to suffer from these measures.

I want to announce, and I want this announcement to be heard in Abkhazia, in Russia, and elsewhere, that this action has nothing to do with the authorities. This is an adventure of the first order aimed at causing the failure of the process of returning to Abkhazia— to cause the failure of the process of Abkhazia—the process of returning [as heard].

I have issued an order instructing all military units to stay at their places of stationing and to carry out their duties. In addition, I have ordered the protection of vital facilities like the parliament, cabinet of ministers, television, and others to be reinforced so as to rule out any action by the adventurers.

This is what I can tell you at this moment: I cannot see any grounds for panicking. I have to say that I am confident my orders will be executed. They will be disarmed. And generally, the ravages of people carrying illegal, unregistered arms should come to an end in Georgia. A decisive word should be said today. This is the task assigned to the State Security Service, the Interior Ministry and the Defense Ministry. That is it.

[Correspondent] Can we ask a few questions? Mr. Shevardnadze, as far as we understand, measures will be taken to stop the convoy moving toward western Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] Everything will be done to disarm them.

[Correspondent] How would you assess Butrus Butrus-Ghali's recent statement that the process of settling the Abkhazian conflict politically has arrived at a deadlock?

[Shevardnadze] I would not say that it is in a deadlock. It rather is delayed. I have said it several times. Incidentally, the UN Security Council has prolonged the mandate of its observers and allotted stricter requirements with regard to returning the refugees. So, the process is under way.

[Correspondent] The armed group will not be able to enter Abkhazia, will it?

[Shevardnadze] No. This would be the beginning of a new stage of bloodshed and a new stage of confrontation.

[Correspondent] And probably not only in Georgia but also in the entire Caucasus.

[Shevardnadze] Probably in the entire Caucasus. This is a high adventure. A high adventure has been planned. I cannot rule out the involvement of certain forces from other states. That man I have already mentioned, who is working with Kitovani, has been long engaged in the activities claiming to be a representative of the Russian president. This is a bluff and there is no representative here. This is a common network of agents. And this is a common provocation.

[Correspondent] You think nobody will help them, do you not?

[Shevardnadze] No one.

[Correspondent] Kitovani never concealed his intentions to move his men to Abkhazia. It was known about a month ago. And if his supporters were considered to be illegal, why were no measures taken to prevent this action?

[Shevardnadze] It was difficult to stop it. Everyone wants to return to Abkhazia. And everyone has the right to voice his views and intentions. He spoke about it in the parliament and at meetings. As for arming units, this is another point. In doing this, he violated the law and the authorities will act within the framework of the law.

[Correspondent] As you said, you have ordered armed forces to remain at their places of stationing. Who will disarm the group then?

[Shevardnadze] We are not short of power structures. There is no need for mobilizing all of those. There are sufficient numbers of flying squads which are capable of accomplishing the task.

[Correspondent] The Russian peacekeeping forces are there. Could they be asked to assist in fulfilling this task?

[Shevardnadze] Certainly not. They are stationed there with their own assignment. They will not let anyone pass, neither from that side nor from this side.

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[Correspondent] How would you assess an appeal made by the Supreme Council of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic to you and the Georgian authorities to take all measures to disarm illegal bandit units in Abkhazia? What does it mean?

[Shevardnadze] I think the request is absolutely justified. But we are speaking about another formation today. On the whole, an order of the commander-in-chief is being prepared. It stipulates disarming all illegal armed formations. This is a more complicated task and we will have to study it further. As for today's events, there is a concrete order and there are concrete decisions.

[Correspondent] There may be people in the convoy who got there by misunderstanding simply wishing to return home. Could it be possible to use them in government service, in power structures?

[Shevardnadze] I believe that all who were misled will return. And I am sure that almost everyone there was misled. You can see what is happening. As if someone is acting on behalf of the Russian president, on behalf of Vasiliy Yakushev, the commanders of the group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia. All this is nonsense and all this is foolishness. They were naturally misled. [passage indistinct]

Kitovani, Militants Sent To Remand Center

LD1501214395 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The former Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani has been sent to the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] remand center in Tbilisi. According to reports from Georgian sources, about 80 militants of the Georgian National Liberation Front have been brought to the MVD remand center from Kutaisi. Thus, all the active participants of the illegal armed formation that intended by force of arms to return Abkhazia within the structure of the Republic of Georgia have been arrested.

Security Chief Interviewed on Arrest

LD1401204495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our public was worried yesterday after hearing the news that a group of armed people had left Tbilisi for Abkhazia. [passage omitted]

Here is an interview with the head of the State Security Service, Lt-Gen Igor Giorgadze.

[Begin recording] [Giorgadze] We have averted a real danger of civil war recurring in Georgia. If what Kitovani was planning had gone ahead, they would have set up camps in Senaki and Poti. Other forces would have joined them: misguided people, people with real patriotic feelings, and people pursuing some other objectives. Of course, no one would have allowed them into Abkhazia, but they would have been used to do exactly what Mr. Tengiz Kitovani advocates - to fight the present authorities, which means another civil war. I would say that we were facing a very serious threat, which we have managed to avert.

[Interviewer] Is there a link between these events and developments in Chechnya?

[Giorgadze] I have said in the past and I repeat now that this adventure would have provoked a reaction the first signs of which we have already felt. I said at today's news conference that the Abkhaz separatists have already been asking the Confederation of Mountain Peoples for assistance. This was at a time when nothing had happened at all, except for Kitovani's statements. Can you imagine what would happen if they could say that 1,000, 1,500, or 3,000 people wanting to invade Abkhazia had set up camps in immediate proximity to the demilitarized zone? Of course, this would have had a detrimental effect for us.

As regards the Chechen problem, Chechnya is saying that Russia is an imperialist force trying to conquer an independent state - Chechnya. We would have given Abkhazia cause for saying that Georgia is an imperialist force trying to conquer independent Abkhazia. Such a political reaction would have followed this action.

[Interviewer] What will happen to Kitovani and the people who were with him?

[Giorgadze] The investigation will establish this.

[Interviewer] What kind of weapons were confiscated?

[Giorgadze] Several dozen machine-guns, grenade launchers, the so called mukhas and remote-control bombs. By the way, it must be noted that no army unit has such remote-control devices; only special services have them. How this equipment has been obtained should also be established by the investigation. [end recording]

Kitovani Faces 10 Years Imprisonment

LD1401173195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1555 GMT 14 Jan 95

[By SAKINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 14 Jan—Tengiz Kitovani, Georgian Supreme Council deputy and former Georgian defense minister, can face 10 years in prison for setting up an armed formation in order to start hostilities in Abkhazia. A group of armed members of the Georgian National-Liberation Front under his command were completely disarmed on Friday evening in the area of the village of Simoneti, near Kutaisi, as it was heading for Abkhazia to bring the region back to the jurisdiction of the Republic of Georgia by military means.

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The leader of the National-Liberation Front has been charged under a clause in Article 238. This was reported by Lieutenant General Igor Giorgadze, the head of the Georgian Security Service, at a news conference today. He told journalists that since Deputy Kitovani was detained while carrying out an illegal act, his parliamentary immunity could be removed automatically, and there was no need for the Supreme Council's permission to do it.

Georgian Procurator-General Jamlet Babilashvili said that the National-Liberation Front, led by Tengiz Kitovani and Former Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, had not been registered either by the Ministry of Justice or by any other official Georgian agency, and therefore, it had, in effect, been an illegal organization from the very beginning of its existence.

Prime Minister Meets With Samegrelo Rayon Leaders

LD1501151595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It would be interesting to know what the situation is in western Georgia after an armed march toward Abkhazia has been averted.

To ascertain this, Georgian Otar Patsatsia had a meeting with the Samegrelo region rayon administrators and heads of law-enforcement bodies in the town of Senaki on 14 January. The administrators gave the prime minister a report on the current situation in the rayons. In their words the situation is under control.

It is advisable that the law-enforcement bodies and the administrations show more stringency against those who were our ideological opponents yesterday.

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Estonia

Officials, Businessmen Deny Smuggling Arms to Chechnya

WS1701123095 Tallinn BNS in English 1012 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 17, BNS—Estonian officials and businessmen categorically deny allegations of the Baltic state's direct involvement in smuggling arms to Chechnya the Russian TV made on Monday [16 January].

Security Police Deputy Director Holger Siigart told BNS his department had no information about weapons being sent to Chechnya. He added, however, that the police "were checking some press reports."

The Russian TV program Podrobnosti (Details) on Monday claimed that Estonian and Russian organized crime groups cooperated in taking pistols, machine guns, mines, and Strela missiles to the rebel mountain republic. The program claimed the "same Estonian company that was involved in the sale of Russian ruble banknotes to Chechnya" was connected with the arms smuggling.

According to the State Audit Office, the sale to an unknown buyer of the Russian ruble notes withdrawn from circulation in Estonia during the monetary reform in June 1992 was mediated by the MAAG Oy company, which is registered in Finland but mostly owned by Estonian capital.

Marek Strandberg, one of the MAAG's owners, told BNS the Russian TV report was "total nonsense." He added that this new "dodge of Russian propaganda" didn't surprise him.

"Probably the Russian Embassy and Russia's intelligence service operating in Estonia based the propagandistic report on sensitive information about the open political fight surrounding the sale of the ruble notes. Estonia's reaction and resistance to the well-oiled Russian propaganda machine is still weak. I'd advise the Estonian counterintelligence and propaganda services to take a leaf out of Russia's book. Otherwise the following black scenario may be applied: Russia will claim that Estonia supports the terrorist Chechnya, consequently, it is a terrorist state and troops must be sent in there," Strandberg told BNS.

The Russian TV program named the paramilitary Defense League as one source of the weapons smuggled into Chechnya.

Lieutenant Neeme Vali, chief of the Defense League general staff, told BNS the organization hadn't supplied arms to anybody, as "we go short of them as it is."

"It's nice that Russian propag. da attaches so much importance to the Estonian Defense League. But, unfortunately, it seems that the influence of the Defense League on world developments isn't quite as big as Russians claim," Vali noted.

Russian Fleet Announces Coordinates of Border Lake Buoys

WS1301131195 Tallinn BNS in English 1907 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 12, BNS—The hydrography service of Russia's Baltic Fleet on Thursday [12 January] announced to BNS the coordinates of the seven border buoys placed in Lake Peipus at the end of last year, thereby contradicting earlier disclaimers by both the Estonian and the Russian border guards.

Hydrographers said a helicopter dropped four buoys in Lake Peipus proper and three in its narrowest part known as Lammijarv in Estonian. The buoys may escape Estonian border guards' notice in winter because they may freeze in, they explained.

Estonian border guard officials told BNS Wednesday that reports about demarcation of the border in the lakes were "strongly exaggerated" and that neither Estonian nor Russian border guards had any information about it.

Radioactive Source Discovered in Forest Outside Tallinn

LD1401171795 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source of radioactivity with a radiation level of over 200 roentgen per hour has been found in the forest at the 55-km mark on the St. Petersburg highway. The source has now been isolated; it has been covered with sheets of tin.

Preparations are under way to transport the source to a depository for radioactive waste. There is no danger to people or to traffic on the St. Petersburg highway and Valgejoe road.

A radiation group of the State Rescue Department, specialists of the Environment Ministry, officers of the Tallinn rescue commando, firemen from Loksa, and police from Kuusalu took part in isolating and removing the source of radiation. This information was forwarded by the Kalev Timberg, deputy director-general of the State Rescue Service.

Latvia

Council of Europe Admits Baltic Assembly as Observer

LD1601173795 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Baltic Assembly will in future take part in the work of the Council of Europe as an observer, Maris Budovskis, president of the Baltic Assembly stated today [16 January]. A statement has

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also been received from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to the effect that a decision has been taken to admit the Baltic Assembly as its member. But participation of the Baltic Assembly in the work of the Western European Union is currently at the stage of consideration.

Russian Special Services Accused of Espionage

LD1301211495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1706 GMT 13 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riga, 13 Jan—The Latvian Interior Ministry, which has issued a statement on illegal activities of the Russian special services on the territory of this Baltic state, today refused to confirm to an ITAR-TASS correspondent if there were any Russian citizens among those detained. It was explained that this was dictated by the interests of the investigation. The Russian embassy also failed to answer this question—they learned about the accusations from today's newspapers.

The DIENA newspaper published a police statement under the headline "Spies of Russian special services detained." The paper printed a Xerox copy of the identity card No. 002704 issued in 1980 in the name of Sergey Konstantinovich Yagotin, serviceman of the army unit No. 2198 of the USSR KGB. The inscription under the Xerox copy said: "The identity card of the detained employee of the Russian special service says that he was born in Estonia."

Yagotin was arrested last November on a highway near Riga in a car with Russian license plates. He carried a pistol. "The documents and other papers confiscated from him," the Interior Ministry press service statement says, "gave an indisputable evidence for his links with the Russian special services." [passage omitted]

Vladimir Ionkin, the Russian embassy's press secretary, who does not have the information if there are Russian citizens among those arrested, stressed that the Latvian side, contrary to interstate agreements, does not always bring such information to the consul's notice. In this particular case it did not approach the embassy with any queries. On the other hand, no official inquiry has been received from the embassy, however, it is not ruled out that there will be one, Ionkin said.

Chechen Events Prompt Tackling Russian Relations

WS1701111595 Tallinn BNS in English 1545 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Helsinki, Jan 16, BNS—The Chechen events and the success of ultranational forces in Russia prompt Latvia to tackle bilateral relations more actively, Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs told reporters Monday [16 January] in Helsinki.

In Birkavs' words, the settlement of the issue of unlawfully present military retirees and the introduction of international control over the Skrunda radar station will help Latvia to avoid possible Russian provocations in the future.

"We don't assume that political changes in Russia pose a direct threat to our security but, if a country in its territory uses such methods as Russia does in Chechnya, its actions abroad are unpredictable," said Birkavs.

Russia has no opportunity for direct aggression toward Latvia. "Sooner, there exists a probability of indirect threats," Birkavs said explaining that "Russia may start to manipulate with Latvia's resident Russian-speakers, apply economic blackmail and use the Skrunda radar station for possible provocations."

Consequently, it's essential to sooner decide on the fate of the 4,000 Russian military pensioners whose stay in Latvia is illegal and to ensure efficient international control over the radar station, the minister said.

The presence of the 4,000 Russian military persons in Latvia contradicts the April 30 agreement between Latvia and Russia on troop withdrawal. Russia itself recognizes that their number is 1,700 but the countries have started "a productive dialog" on the order of settling the issue, Birkavs said.

Latvia follows closely to the development of events in Chechnya, Birkavs said. "The issue of observance of human rights is not an internal affair of a country," he noted.

On the other hand, the minister conceded that "closing the door of the international community to Russia" would also be a gross mistake. "All should be interested in the development of democracy in Russia and we are interested that our neighbor succeeds with economic and democratic reform. The Chechen events, however, showed how far Russia is from this goal," Birkavs said.

Birkavs is visiting Helsinki en route from the United States, where he signed a Latvian-U.S. agreement on protection of investments. In Helsinki, Birkavs will address a Pasikivi company conference with a speech on Latvia's role in international relations. Birkavs returns to Riga Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Condemns Russian Attack on Chechnya

LD1601175095 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1530 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvia, too, condemns Russia's military action in Chechnya. Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs said in Helsinki today that the problem of Chechnya cannot be solved by using military force.

[Begin Birkavs recording, in English] The evolution of military activity in Chechnya I think not only deepens the crisis but also, and that's very important, undermines

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or questions many efforts that European nations have recently tried to agree in the context of both building a new European security identity. [end recording]

In Birkavs's view, Russia's attack on Chechnya was precipitate and the country did not want to apply all diplomatic channels to defuse the crisis. According to Birkavs, the attack carried out in the name of Russian unity may rather speed up the disintegration of the country. Foreign Minister Birkavs described the relations between Latvia and Russia as satisfactory. The relations are strained, however, by the illegal residence in Latvia of 4,000 officers who have resigned from the Russian Army.

Lithunia

EC's Martinez: 'You Are Worthy of Freedom You Achieved'

WS1301125895 Vilnius ELTA in English 1856 GMT 12 Jan 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 671]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, January 12, ELTA - President of EC Parliamentary Assembly Miguel Angel Martinez arrived in Vilnius on Thursday [12 January]. He met with Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas. Their discussion lasted about an hour; one more hour they spent at the lunch table.

Martinez appraised Lithuania's support to Latvia striving to become a full member of European Council and invited Jursenas to come to Strasbourg to discuss Latvian issues at the Parliamentary Assembly.

Martinez said the letter of Jursenas sent in mid December with an incitement to take measures for stopping bloodshed in Chechnya was very useful. It caused official expression of the EC position about Russian actions, when many world politicians were very moderate or even silent.

Then Martinez visited Lithuanian President's Office, where he was received by President Algirdas Brazauskas. Brazauskas decorated Martinez with the Lithuanian Great Duke Gediminas' Order of 2nd Degree for personal support of Lithuania in restoring its independence and integrating it into European organizations.

After sincere gratitude expressed for his decoration, Martinez said that there were no historical, geographical and cultural reasons justifying your life to be worse than for others. "You are worthy of freedom you achieved", he said.

Martinez mentioned about his speech at the Parliamentary Assembly about Lithuania's role in the processes of late years. All the parliamentarians—from Portugal to Iceland, rightists and leftists—agreed that Lithuania's role was exceptional, he said.

After decoration ceremony, Brzauskas and Martinez had a face-to-face conversation. Later he met with members of various Seimas factions: Homeland Union, Christian Democrats and Social Democrats.

Then Martinez was received by Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius. Speaking about Chechnya, Martinez said that declaration proposed to EC to recognize Chechnya's independence was unacceptable. However, the way how this conflict is being solved is also unacceptable for many European politicians, he said.

At the end of their exchange of opinions, Martinez said that Lithuania seeking for membership in EC and EU could expect support of the European Council. It has already allocated more than 1 million French francs for different programmes supporting Lithuania.

Minsk's Membership of NATO Partnership Welcomed

LD1301190095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 13 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 13 (Interfax)—Lithuania has welcomed Belarus's membership in Partnership for Peace.

"The step will help Belarus develop democratic control over its armed forces and eliminate unnecessary secrecy in defense planning and military budgeting," the Baltic country's Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry said it was in the interest of Lithuania, which has also joined Partnership for Peace, to step up cooperation with Belarus within the scheme.

Allegations of Spying in Russia Denied

WS1701111695 Tallinn BNS in English 1545 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 16, BNS—The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry released a statement Monday [16 January] denying Lithuania's alleged interference in the Chechnya conflict and spying activities of Lithuanian citizens on Russian territory.

"Inventions that do not contribute to the development of friendly relations between countries come as a response to Lithuania's good will to send humanitarian aid to the victims of the military conflict in Chechnya.

"Lithuania has more than once stated its position on the Chechnya conflict. Its essence— peaceful settlement of the conflict," the statement said.

Landsbergis: Poland To Tighten Border Over Military Transit

WS1701092495 Tallinn BNS in English 1305 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 16, BNS—Poland is "realistic" about Lithuania's plans to sign a military

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transit agreement with Russia and will "regard its border with Lithuania as a boundary of Russia's strategic interests and actions zone," says Lithuanian opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

In a statement circulated Monday, Landsbergis draws the conclusion based on reports that Poland intends to redeploy an army unit from its western border to the border with Lithuania.

The opposition leader said the step would be a very bad indication for Lithuania, and with Russia's policy becoming more aggressive—a warning signal. "If specific information is available to Poland's intelligence about the role assigned to Lithuania or its territory in Moscow's or other strategic planning centers, it would be a friendly move to share such news," the statement said.

Landsbergis told reporters Monday [16 January] that he obtained information about Poland's intention to redeploy one of its units from local Lithuanians. In his opinion, it is unlikely that the supposed action is related to efforts to step up control of Poland's border with the Kaliningrad region or Belarus, because he says there is specific mention of the border with Lithuania.

The opposition leader sharply criticized Lithuanian officials for their actions with respect to Valeri Ivanov, former leader of the pro-Soviet organization Yedinstvo.

Lithuanian immigration authorities announced in late December that Ivanov, who has served a three-year prison sentence for his role in the January 1991 failed Soviet coup attempt, has been asked to leave Lithuania. Officials, including Interior Minister Romasis Vaitekunas, later expressed doubts whether there are enough grounds to expel the former Soviet activist.

In Landsbergis' opinion, Lithuania "bothers with a war criminal, who is a foreign citizen and has been instructed to leave the country." The opposition leader pointed out that Ivanov is supported by Russian fascists and other forces seeking to destabilize the situation around Russia. Landsbergis also suggested to inquire about the position of the Russian Embassy in Vilnius—does it want Ivanov in Russia or in Lithuania.

"I would throw him out in three days, and if the Lithuanian interior minister does not think that his duty is to protect Lithuania, Lithuania's security and the peaceful life of people, I would be surprised."

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